Oregon Central Coast Chapter
June 2019

Head to Yachts for Three Days of Pride!
More Info at yachatspride.org

Friday, May 31: 5:00-8:00—Food Truck Dinner (Behind the Commons)
6:00-9:30—Second Chance Prom with Bunny Fu Fu; Dress Your Best to Win Prizes (Commons Multipurpose Room)

Saturday, June 1: 12:00 noon-2:00 pm—Gender Tea Kiki (Commons Multipurpose Room)
3:00-5:00 pm—Loud & Proud Jamboree with Double Plus Good (Pavilion); hoedown style jams with local artists Morrah Moth and Matthew Buonaiuto
5:00-6:30 pm—Munch Time at the Food Trucks (Pavilion)
6:30-8:00 pm—Theater & Drag by Pepper Pepper & Frenz with Lip Sync (Commons Multipurpose Room)
8:00-9:30 pm—All Vinyl Dance (Commons Multipurpose Room)

Sunday, June 2: 11:00 am-12:00 noon—Classes (Room 3)
12:00 noon-2:00 pm—Pride Community Potluck & BBQ with free hamburgers/hotdogs; bring a dish to share.

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.

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On May 17, eight Republicans and 228 Democrats in the U.S. House voted to add sexual orientation and gender identity to existing federal non-discrimination laws. If the bill were to become law, civil rights protections for employment, education, credit, jury service, federal funding, housing, and public accommodations could be extended to all Q people. Of the 173 Republicans voting no, 25 represent constituents already protected by state Q-inclusive state employment, housing, and public accommodation laws with none of the repercussions that no-voters warn could happen. These laws have not destroyed women’s sports or religious-freedom protections, and they have not created mass “uncertainty, litigation, and harm to individuals and organizations,” as Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) promised.

Twenty states and the District of Columbia prohibit Q discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and housing in laws that mirror protections against racial, sex, religious, and ethnic discrimination. GOP lawmakers from ten of these states oppose giving the rest of the U.S. the same protections benefiting the residents of their states.

Almost 70 percent of people in the U.S. accept the idea of a gay presidential candidate, a big shift since 2006 when 53 percent said they’d be “very uncomfortable” or have “reservations” about a gay or lesbian candidate. Pete Buttigieg is down to six percent in the polls, but last month he and his husband made the cover of Time.

**Merriam-Webster Dictionary** has added three gender terms: gender nonconforming, top surgery, and bottom surgery.

**Nearly 60 percent of people** in the U.S. agree that transgender people should be allowed to serve in the U.S. armed forces.

**All eight teenagers in the confirmation class** at First United Methodist Church in Omaha (NE) told the congregation that they refuse to become members because of the church’s anti-Q position.

**Last April, Secretary of Education testified** that she knew one of her first acts in the position could greatly harm transgender students by making them less safe, reducing their attendance and grades, and creating more depression and anxiety. She said that although she knew about these dangers she still rescinded guidance and told schools to ignore the law. Asked about the high levels of suicide among transgender students, Devos said she knew the data when she rolled back the guidance. In her current position, DeVos has taken actions that directly harm Q students, racial minority students, and students living with disabilities. That’s why we need laws to protect Q people.

**Ashleigh Hocking is casting for a new series** for Disney+ called (Re)Connect and searching for families who feel disconnected in some way. One show created by a celebrity GLAAD award winner will focus on the Q community to bridge the gap with families struggling because of a parent/sibling/child who does not accept them. Anyone interested in applying or learning more about the show can contact Ashleigh at 339-203-0487.
Politics on Our Side


New Orleans: City EMS employees will wear commemorative badges during June to honor the Q community and allies who “serve with Pride.” Badges represent a commitment to educate providers about Q-related emergency health conditions, healthcare disparities, and respectful practices when caring for Q patients. Other help for Q people includes staff sensitivity training, nondiscrimination policies and protections, transparent complaint-handling procedures, Q personnel to liaise between the Q community and NOEMS, and work for positive pre-hospital healthcare experiences for Q people.

Fort Wayne (IN): Wyatt Thomas’ real name will be called out at graduation, thanks to the fight that the transgender student’s father put up after the school had refused. A change.org petition posted by Wyatt's father garnered over 14,000 signatures. Brian Thomas wrote, “We ask that our wishes be honored on behalf of our precious child.”

Arizona: The state Supreme Court ruled that courts can order parents to provide counseling and other treatment for transgender youth even if one parent isn’t supportive. The court also ruled that a family court had overstepped in ordering parents to treat their transgender daughter like a boy. The decision was to “promote and protect the emotional and physical health of the child.”

United States: Ten trans women won their immigration cases for asylum and have been released from a Texas detention center to stay in the country. One of them talked about the derogatory treatment they received during detention from ICE agents. The ten were part of a Q group of migrants, numbering about 80 people, who separated from the caravan coming from Central America.

United States: Over 200 leading businesses operating in all 50 states joined HRC’s Business Coalition for the Equality Act. The businesses have headquarters in 29 states, over $4.5 trillion in revenue, and over 10.4 million employees in the U.S. The bill has support from 70 percent of people, hundreds of congressional members, and over 500 statewide and national organizations. The Equality Act would provide comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for the 50 percent of Q people in the U.S. living at risk of being fired, denied housing, or refused services in 30 states. Q people also face discrimination in obtaining credit and education, serving on juries, and even being in public spaces.

United States: Six U.S. House representatives have introduced the SERVE Act to guarantee protections for active duty transgender service members discharged because of Donald Trump’s transgender ban. The law would ensure they are not denied VA healthcare benefits by discharges because of their gender identity.
Advice for Parents of Trans Children

"Kids of all ages look to their parents for acceptance, and lack of acceptance or rejection can result in significant psychological distress. The statistics back this up: 57% of trans youth with rejecting parents have a suicide attempt as contrasted with 4% in trans youth with accepting parents (Travers, Bauer, Pyne and Bradley, 2012).

**Monitor your expressions & responses:**
Your child is going to be reading your facial expressions and body language looking for signs of acceptance, and it matters that you monitor your reactions. Adolescents have a tendency to over-identify negative emotions, so are very likely to see rejection or negative response in even the smallest facial expressions. Work very hard to stay neutral and supportive.

**Talking with your kid:**
Ask questions that are open-ended and meant to increase understanding. Avoid questions that would result in yes/no responses, and stick to questions that will increase your understanding of their worldview. Some good ones would be:
- Tell me about your journey with your gender.
- What were some of the thoughts or experiences that led you to this conclusion?
- How do you view the journey moving forward?
- What are the ways that I can support you?

**Transition Timing:**
I always agree with social transitioning—asking to be called a different name, changing pronouns, dressing according to identified gender. I am a little slower to support physical changes (for teens) that can be permanent, because of their permanence.

**Your child needs you!**
Your child will need you to be their advocate. For parents who are struggling with acceptance, advocacy can feel like a hard pill to swallow, but this goes back to the basic goal of raising a healthy child; the suicide risk alone makes it better to be more accepting.

[The above was excerpted from Kristin Daley’s August 1, 2017 piece: https://www.psychbytes.com/my-child-says-they-are-transgender-now-what/]

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**Taiwan:** On May 17, 2019, Taiwan became the first country in Asia to legalize marriage equality.

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**News Bits**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has said it will allow children of same-sex couples to be baptized, reversing a 2015 rule banning such ceremonies and labeling those in same-sex marriages as apostates.

Next February, a Golden Girls-themed cruise costing $1,000 per person leaves Miami for five days with stops in Key West and Cozumel, Mexico. The show with four senior female stars has been a part of gay culture for almost three decades with gay men imagining living out their lives with other gay men.

Sexual predators are not taking advantage of transgender equality except in the minds of anti-Q groups. That’s the conclusion of a new study in *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*.

Lead researcher Brian Barnett said the evidence found only one perpetrator in an alleged crime in a changing room, and he claimed that he was there to object to a new law expanding transgender bathroom access.

An analysis from *Media Matters* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbU6Qp0QxFk corroborates the new study. Thirteen cases of cisgender men dressing up as women to enter women’s facilities since 2004—one per year out of the billions of times that people use U.S. public facilities—are already against the law.

https://thinkprogress.org/study-debunks-bathroom-safety-concerns-over-transgender-equality-af932113a4fa/
PFLAG Board members met on May 4 to review current activities and programs and to plan for the coming year. A new generation of leadership emerged with lots of new ideas and energy. Watch for news of expanded services and programs as the dynamic duo, Chair Lisa Norton and Secretary Tracey Cummings, move PFLAG OCC to the next level. Jeanne St.John and Treasurer Debbie Spicer will remain on the Board as active members and advisors while plans are made to apply for grants to support a staff person and office/meeting space for the Q Community.

While support for young Q people will continue as a priority, services and programs for different ages and interests will be possible with staff support. We left the meeting with great appreciation for the 11 years of work that has brought PFLAG OCC to the point of expanding into a greater resource for the Q Community.

**PFLAG OCC Scholarships:** The first 2019 scholarship was awarded to Cassidy Brown from Newport High. She has a 4.0 grade point average and has been the president of the NHS GSA for three years. She plans to pursue her education at Western Oregon University. Because of confusion of the due date, an extension was given, and other applications are being considered. A future newsletter will announce scholarships.

**YOU MATTER Project:** PFLAG OCC adopted the YOU MATTER card project in which members carry small cards with the message YOU MATTER to share with anyone in the community. Sharing You Matter cards reinforces how important it is to feel seen, to feel cared for, and to know that we belong. PFLAG contact info is printed on the back of the card so others will know about PFLAG and ways to access information and resources. YOU MATTER cards will be available at Yachats Pride and at PFLAG meetings and events. Take a few and let people know that they matter—especially at moments when they might feel invisible or worse. See Cheryl Rice’s “Ted Talk about You Matter”:  

To celebrate Pride Month, Ikea is printing its bags in rainbow colors. All proceeds from the cost of $3.99 per bag go to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. Listerine also has bottles with rainbow colors for Pride Month; unfortunately, the explanations of the colors on the bottle are wrong.

**The Trevor Project has opened up a 24/7 chat and text counseling services to expand services for suicidal Q youth. Call 1-866-488-7386, text 678678, or visit their website at “Get Help.”**

![Martha Hendricks](image)

**Martha Hendricks,** Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library Director, received the Tennessee Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Award for supporting the rights of all community members to use library meeting spaces regardless of their beliefs or affiliations.

One group using the library meeting room was Equality Clarksville, which sometimes holds a children’s story time including a drag queen to celebrate diversity. Hendricks upheld the ALA standards although her character was personally attacked. She contributed a thoughtful editorial to the local newspaper to diffuse the situation with grace.
Donald Trump is trying to tear a family apart because one of the children is not the biological child of a U.S. citizen. **Allison Blixt** and **Stefania Zaccari** were legally married when Lucas was born. Because Zaccari is not a U.S. citizen, however, Trump’s rules consider the son an “out of wedlock” birth. Their second child, born to Blixt, is a U.S. citizen. The State Department reinterpreted the immigration law to mean that a child born abroad must be biologically related to a U.S. citizen parent, but the rule doesn’t apply to heterosexual couples who are not required to provide DNA testing if the father is the U.S. citizen. Earlier this year, a judge ruled in favor of a gay couple with two children although only one had a “biological connection” with a U.S. citizen, but the State Department is appealing that decision. A judge is permitting the two women to sue for their parental and citizenship rights.

Sgt. 1st. Class **Janina Simmons** became the first black female soldier to pass the tough Army Ranger School—and then immediately proposed to her girlfriend. Only the best soldiers make it through the school on the first attempt, and more than a dozen women have made it through the grueling 62 days of training required to pass. Last year, Simmons came in first by finishing the 16-mile Fort Jackson Bataan Memorial Death March qualifier in two hours and 52 minutes while carrying over 25 pounds of gear.

Two queer women of color have founded **The Radical Monarchs** for young girls in an alternative to the mostly white Girl Scouts. The group offers the girls opportunities “celebrating their identities and contributing radically to their communities.” The documentary **We Are the Radical Monarchs**, directed by **Linda Goldstein Knowlton** (above left), follows the first two troops from early 2015 to June 2018. The name of the group represents transformative power and change with the connection of monarch butterflies to immigration.

**Lillian Bonsignore** (left), a 28-year veteran of the New York’s fire department, will lead the 4,500-member EMS division. About her official installation, she said, “My wife will be there with me, front and center, and my daughters,” she said. “I’m excited.” Bonsignore has become highest-ranked woman in the uniformed service and the highest-ranked openly Q member.
PFLAG Opportunities

Waverly Sudborough led the May OCC PFLAG program by describing her long journey from a San Diego high school with a very active GSA of 30+ members to OCCC where there was no GSA and no visible Q presence. She tried many activities and announced many meetings without much success. Then during this school year she was able to connect with several other Q students and launch a successful GSA—small, but mighty.

The OCCC GSA has continued to meet during this school year and has plans for next year after Waverly moves on to Pacific University in Forest Grove. She has been a great asset to the PFLAG OCC Board and will be missed. Thanks, Waverly!—Jeanne St.John

PFLAG OCC will have a display and sale table at Yachats Pride on the mornings of Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2. Board members will staff and participate in the weekend’s events.

Portland Pride, June 15-19
https://www.pridenw.org/ portlandpride

Media Matters:

Alabama is so opposed to marriage equality that its public television pulled the children’s television show Arthur because beloved teacher Mr. Ratburn marries his male aardvark partner. You can sign a petition to change the Alabama flag to an image of the couple’s wedding. [Google “alabama flag change.org”]

At Motor City Comic Con, a real life Captain Marvel proposed to Wonder Woman. Watch the video here. https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2019/05/watch-captain-marvel-proposes-wonder-woman/

Nina West has released a music video, “Drag is Magic,” for boys who are told “they are too feminine, or who are told they shouldn’t want to play with that toy.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbU6Op0QxFk

Hulu has debuted “The Bravest Knight,” based on Daniel Errico’s children’s book that features former pumpkin farmer, Sir Cedric, who married the prince of his dreams.
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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