



Jeanne St.John/
Ineka Estabrook , Co-
Chairs
Deb Lyman, Secretary
Debbie Spicer, Treasurer
Nel Ward, Newsletter
Editor
nelcward@charter.net
nelsnewday.wordpress.com
Contact: PO Box 2172,
Newport, OR 97365
(541)265-7194
pflagocc@gmail.com

Parents, Families and
Friends of Lesbians and
Gays promotes the
health and well- being
of gay, lesbian, bisex-
ual, and trans-gendered
persons, their families,
and their friends
through

SUPPORT to cope with
an adverse society

EDUCATION to
enlighten an ill-
informed public

ADVOCACY to end dis-
crimination and secure
equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

January 2015

Boy Scouts March in Seattle Pride Parade



A year ago on January 1, 2014, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) changed its policy to allow gay scouts but not gay leaders. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, elected to head the BSA for two years, said after his selection last May that he would have permitted gay leaders for the groups. Gates also led the military to end “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” This past June, Boy Scout troops marched in gay pride parades from New York to Seattle, including 88-year-old David Knapp who was expelled from volunteering with BSA 21 years ago for being gay. He carried a sign that stated, “88 year old Boy Scout leader kicked out for being gay.”

**U.S. Supreme Court to Determine on January 9
Whether to Hear Marriage Equality Case (p. 5)**

Anti-LGBT Group Falsifies Billboard (p. 6)

PFLAG to Show Alan Turing Film (p. 7)

Local PFLAGers Enjoy Busy Social Life

December's Holiday Dessert Potluck



We celebrated the holidays at the December 10 PFLAG Holiday Dessert Potluck with great desserts and support for upcoming holiday gatherings that are difficult for some LGBT people. Highlights were the GSA kids' PFLAG Gingerbread House and Ineka's "Gender-bread" people with different gender expressions! Everyone had a great time and told stories of Christmas traditions they have enjoyed. Ineka won the prize for the most unbelievable Christmas tradition with a description of the Catalan region of Spain's Caga Tio, the present-pooing Christmas log. Google it and you'll be amazed!



Happy Hour, OUT on the Oregon Coast

On December 2, a new tradition was launched—late afternoon Happy Hour with a group of LGBT friends old and new. Almost a dozen people gathered at Georgie's for adult beverages and tasty Happy Hour menu treats and to get acquainted with newcomers to the community. Everyone had such a good time that we decided to make it a monthly event—and to continue at Georgie's while they serve their slow-season Happy Hour menu—and then to move around to other local LGBT-friendly spots. Don't miss the next gathering on

Tues., Jan. 13 from 4-6 pm at Georgie's Lounge. Invite a friend and let's have a good time socializing together! All LGBT friends and allies are welcome!

Gay-themed 'Last Christmas' Dinner/Music Theatre a Great Success!

Playwright and musician Darcy Hogan brought her gay-themed musical, "Last Christmas," from SoCal to Newport with two nights of a dinner and musical at Zach's Bistro in Nye Beach. Songs like "It's the Most Wonderful Time to be Queer" and "Last Christmas I Gave You My Heart ... But the Very Next Day You Said You Were Gay" led the light-hearted and slightly off-color entertainment. It was fun to have a gathering especially (but not exclusively) for the LGBT community on the Oregon Coast. There may be an encore next holiday season.—Jeanne St.John

Politics on Our Side

Miami-Dade County: The 20th municipality in Florida now bans discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Fifty percent of the state's residents are now covered by these ordinances.

Massachusetts: The crimes-against-humanity lawsuit filed against anti-LGBTQ activist Scott Lively will proceed after a federal appeals court denied his petition to dismiss the complaint. The lawsuit accuses Lively of trying to influence the laws of a foreign country—in this case, Uganda—after he encouraged government violence against gays while addressing the nation's parliament.

Twenty-two years ago, Lively was an active supporter of Oregon's Measure 9. If the ballot initiative had passed, all government, including public education, would set "a standard for Oregon's youth which recognizes that [homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism or masochism] are abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse."

United States: The FDA has announced a proposal to partially lift the nation's lifetime prohibition on blood donation from gay and bisexual men. If the new policy passes, the 1983 ban will be removed for all men except those who have had sex with other men in the previous 12 months.

United States: Discrimination against transgender people is covered under the sex discrimination prohibition in Title VII of the Civil Rights of 1964, according to Attorney General Eric Holder. The prohibition will now include gender identity.

United States: Three years after the nation lifted its ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military, a move is being made toward allowing transgender people to also

serve openly. A study last March estimated that 15,500 transgender people are serving on active duty or in the Guard or Reserve forces. Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James supports this move, saying that "anyone who is capable of accomplishing the job should be able to serve." She thinks the ban will come under review in the next year or two.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, who is stepping down, also supports a review of the ban. A study led by retired military officers found that the transgender ban could be lifted without a significant burden on the military. In a move toward lifting the ban, the Department of Defense no longer requires the services (Army, Air Force, Navy/Marines) to separate or discharge transgender personnel.

Chile: Lawmakers have introduced a marriage-equality bill by changing a law's language to "two people," "spouse," and "raise children." The country's Senate is already debating a bill permitting civil unions for lesbians and gays. President Michelle Bachelet publicly supports same-sex marriage.

China: In the country's first case about conversion therapy, a Chinese psychological clinic was ordered to pay compensation to a gay man for administering electric shocks intended to make him heterosexual. The court also ruled that homosexuality does not require treatment.

Seoul, South Korea: The mayor has apologized to LGBT activists for postponing a human rights charter after the Metropolitan Government caved in to protests at the inclusion of LGBT people. After the LGBT activists occupied city hall, Park Won-soon said that he would "make whatever statements that you demand."

Advances in the LGBT World

Outsports reports that 109 athletes, coaches, officials, sports administrators, and sports media members came out to the world in 2014, meaning that the general media wrote about their being openly LGBT. The count included 81 men and 28 women in 34 sports. You can read about them here: <http://www.outsports.com/2014/12/18/7341179/gay-lgbt-athletes-coaches-2014>

The ACLU and National Center for Lesbian Rights have issued a new “Know Your Rights” resource: Laws, Court Decisions, and Advocacy Tips to Protect Transgender Prisoners. The guide has seven sections: The Prison Rape Elimination Act; Safety and Protection from Violence; Medical Care; Housing and Administrative Segregation; Searches and Privacy; Safely Preserving and Enforcing Your Rights; and Resources. For more information, contact Crystal Cooper (212.519.7894; ccooper@aclu.org).

The holidays are over, but it's never too late to read these messages of encouragement to anyone who is not accepted by family members. <http://www.yourholidaymom.com/press/>

The ACLU plans to expand Out4Freedom, the campaign to legalize marriage equality, to fight state laws that allow people and businesses to discriminate because of religious beliefs. This year bills have been introduced in Texas, South Carolina, and Michigan although the Senate failed to take up the Michigan House bill. The ACLU predicts, there will be more bills in 2015.

Attorneys who argued to overturn the South Carolina's LGBT marriage ban are being forced to wait for their wages after a coalition of LGBT rights group filed to recoup the almost \$153,000 in legal fees necessary to fight for marriage equality.

The deadline for hearing the lawsuit—and paying the state's attorneys—is now on hold in the 4th Circuit Court. Judges can order losing parties to pay opponents' fees, especially in civil rights cases. As Attorney General Alan Wilson continues to fight for a ban against same-sex marriage, he may be running up the state's tab to pay the LGBT activists' groups.

Ulrike Lunacek, the first openly lesbian member of the Austrian Parliament and co-president of the European Parliament Intergroup on LGBT Rights, has suffered from prejudice, including an attack with butyric acid during the annual Rainbow Parade in Vienna earlier this year. In response, she used her role as Head of Delegation of the Austrian Green Party, to present Pope Francis with a rainbow scarf “for gays, lesbians, and for peace.” She added, “Homosexuals and transgender people [need] to combat fear and show that they are not only part of society, but at the center of it.” The pope graciously accepted the scarf.

Nine months after Winter Olympics in Russia, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has taken a stand against LGBT intolerance at Olympic games by adding “sexual orientation” to the Charter's anti-discrimination language. The first challenges could involve the 2022 Winter Olympic host finalists: Beijing (China) and Almaty (Kazakhstan) have no specific anti-gay legislation, but gays face discrimination and harassment in both countries. There is also increasing pressure in Kazakhstan to adopt laws similar to Russia's.

According to a recent study, LGBT people can change the mind of a same-sex marriage opponent by identifying as LGBT. Data taken from 12,000 conversations with registered voters in Los Angeles' precincts about marriage equality or the placebo group, recycling, showed that respondents who discussed same-sex marriage lessened their prejudice toward LGBT people.

Those who discussed marriage equality with straight people reverted to prejudice within a month whereas discussions with LGBT people resulted in continued change even nine months later.

Marriage Equality at the End of 2014

Watch the date, January 9. During its next private Conference, the U.S. Supreme Court will discuss whether it will take a marriage equality case. Documents have been filed for all four states in the 6th Circuit Court: Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee. In addition, Louisiana is asking that SCOTUS take a case without going through the 5th Circuit Court. Any cases scheduled for briefing and oral argument would have a final decision by late June or early July 2015.

In Florida, same-sex marriages begins on January 6 because the Supreme Court denied the state's AG Pam Bondi to Justice Clarence Thomas that he extend the stay. The denial indicated that Thomas and Justice Antonin Scalia would have granted it. Florida is the 36th state with legal marriage equality but plans to continue the case to the 11th Circuit Court which has already denied Bondi's request to extend the stay. One case concerns Arlene Goldberg, a widow who was with her partner for 47 years. They married in New York three years ago, and Goldberg is requesting that Carol Goldwasser's death certificate be amended from single woman to married, allowing Goldberg Social Security death benefits.

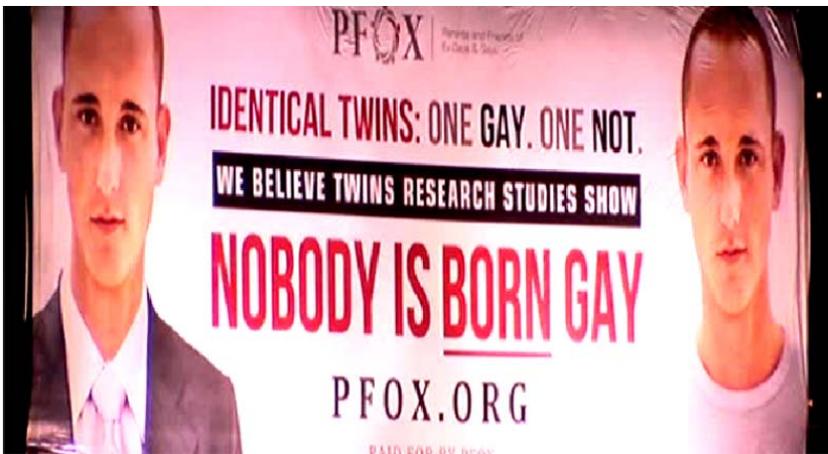
The ACLU maintains that all clerks are required to issue marriage licenses starting on January 6, but the law firm representing the Florida Association of Court Clerks advised them that only the clerk in rural North Florida's Washington County, named in the federal lawsuit, is bound by the ruling. They further warned that all other Florida clerks could face "a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable by imprisonment of not more than one year and a fine of not more than \$1,000."

Same-sex marriage may be illegal in Japan, but a Buddhist temple is offering LGBT couples a place to have symbolic wedding ceremonies. Deputy head priest Rev. Takafumi Kawakami said five couples have married at the Shunkoin Temple in Kyoto since 2010. Japan's constitution defines marriage as "mutual cooperation with the equal rights of husband and wife as basis," but only 24 percent of the Japanese believe in legal marriage equality. The Shunkoin Temple, established in 1590 to honor the memory of a warrior who died in battle, specializes in teaching Zen meditation techniques to English-speaking visitors. The temple teams up with the LGBT-friendly Hotel Granvia Kyoto to offer special destination wedding packages for couples who would like to get married inside the temple.



People Who Make a Difference

Ted Osius III (right) has become the first openly gay U.S. ambassador in Asia. He was joined at his swearing-in ceremony by his husband, Clayton Bond, and Tabo, their 11-month-old son. Osius said, “Twenty-two years ago, when we founded GLIFAA [Gay and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies] to end discrimination against LGBT personnel, we had to keep our member list secret or risk losing our jobs. Ten years ago, when I met Clayton at a GLIFAA meeting, we didn’t expect that we could marry, that we could raise children, or that we could represent our country at the highest levels.” As ambassador to Vietnam, he is the sixth openly LGBT U.S. ambassador currently in service.



Kyle Roux, an openly-gay South African man, is understandably upset about being featured on an antigay billboard in Richmond (VA) after the conservative Christian anti-gay group, Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays (PFOX), used his photo in their anti-LGBT publicity. Roux is also not a twin, and the group purchased his

photo from a stock image service. When Roux complained, the group said that the truth of the photo had nothing to do with their message because they believe science supports their false position.

Alexis Templeton, 20, and **Brittany Ferrell**, 25, both grew up in Ferguson (MO) and went to the same college, but they didn’t meet until they participated in protests after Michael Brown was killed last summer. Both are co-founders of the grassroots, youth-oriented organization Millennial Activists United. Just 130 days after meeting, they got engaged at St. Louis City Hall. Same-sex marriage is currently legal in Missouri.



PFLAG Meeting Shows Alan Turing Film

A brief Annual Meeting to report on 2014 and to elect officers will be followed by a showing of the first half of the documentary *Codebreaker* about the extraordinary and tragic life of brilliant scientist Alan Turing.

Often credited with being instrumental in winning WWII by breaking the German's Enigma code, he has been called the father of computer science and artificial intelligence. Instead of receiving accolades and awards from the British government, he endured terrible persecution for being gay. In 1952 the British government forced him to undergo chemical castration, leading to his suicide when he was only 41 years old.

Although the maverick British genius was one of the most important scientists in history, he's been almost unknown until recently.

Save February 8 For 'Love Is Love'

Save the date and plan ahead now to bring your families and friends to this best-ever Valentine Party for young and old, gay and straight! In the OCCC lobby, this year's party will again feature the romantic music by Past Forward, great for listening and for dancing!

This great band and vocalist provided wonderful entertainment for last year's Love Is Love Party!

There will be a table for making Valentine cards, a photographer for Sweetheart and/or Family photos, celebrations of marriages during the last year, and fun for all ages. Bakers from the area's Welcoming Churches will prepare the desserts with love and support. Don't miss this delightful annual event!

OCC PFLAG Calendar

January 6: Same-sex couples can legally marry in Florida.

January 9: U.S. Supreme Court meets, deciding whether to take any marriage equality cases for the current year.

January 13, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBT Happy Hour, Georgie's—Newport [All welcome!]

January 14, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Alan Turing video "Codebreaker" and Annual Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

January 20, 7:00 pm: CAN Pizza, Abby's—Newport

January 25, 11:00 am: Women's Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, Newport

February 8, 2:00-4:00 pm: 'Love Is Love' Valentine Party w/Past Forward!—OCCC Lobby, South Beach

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

Second Tuesday: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com for information)

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night" (Newport Abbey's Pizza)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com or leave a message for him at (541)994-5597.

*CAN activities are open to everyone, regardless of HIV status or sexual orientation except for "Men's Pot Luck." Occasionally we bend that rule for special events.

Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

Mini-grants Available to Gay Straight Alliances

Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition and Portland PFLAG are collaborating again this year to support GSAs by offering mini-grants. OSSCC will be providing mini-grants to GSAs outside the Portland metropolitan area, and Portland PFLAG will provide mini-grants to GSA within Portland metro area. There is a simple application form that must be submitted. Mini-grants of up to \$200 are based on a first-come, first-served basis, until the funds are depleted. GSAs can find application forms on OSSCC website at:

www.oregonsafeschools.org

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: _____

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PFLAG is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has no political or religious affiliations.



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