



Jeanne St. John, Chair

Lisa Norton, Secretary

Brett Pinder, Treasurer

Nel Ward, Newsletter
Editor

nelcward@charter.net
nellsnewday.wordpress.com

Contact: PO Box 2172,
Newport, OR 97365
(541)265-7194

pflagocc@gmail.com

www.occflag.org

Oregon Central Coast
PFLAG—[https://
www.facebook.com/
groups/103956190597](https://www.facebook.com/groups/103956190597)

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 discrim-
ination and secure equal
civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

September/October 2020

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/LGBTQ-Heroes-2020/> Go here to vote for your LGBTQ Nation heroes of the year. Deadline: September 30

For the past several months, this newsletter has replaced LGBTQ with a simple letter, "Q." Since the onslaught of controversy-ridden people subscribing to a set of beliefs who call themselves "Q Anonymous" or QAnon, we will be returning to the longer set of initials to refer to the sexual minority LGBTQ+ spectrum.

QAnon is the name selected by the neo-Nazi "QAnon" movement, which repurposes Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda against Jews to attack "globalists" and all their allies. With no evidence, QAnon believers allege a cabal of Satan-worshiping pedophiles running a global child sex-trafficking ring is plotting against Donald Trump, who is battling them. The struggle leads to a "day of reckoning" involving the mass arrest of journalists and politicians.

Back to using LGBTQ!

During the restrictions of COVID-19, the PFLAG newsletter may sometimes be published every two months instead of monthly. If you have news, please send it to Nel Ward, nelcward@charter.net or Box 2304, Newport, OR 97365.

**A Nation Cries
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg Dies
Vote!!!**

Check Out the Virtual NY/LA Lit Fest

October 5-9: New York's and Los Angeles' week-long virtual celebration of the Black LGBTQIA+ excellence and abundance features Black, Indigenous, and POC LGBTQIA+ writers, artists, and activists engaged in dynamic, heart-driven conversations centering on the Black LGBTQIA+ experience. Titled "From Activism to Joy," each night focuses on topics including Politics & Activism, Black Aesthetics, and Writing in Hollywood. The week finishes with a discussion of Sex and the Body. More info: <https://www.lambdaliterary.org/litfest/>
Media Contact: Sue Landers, suelanders@lambdaliterary.org, 323-385-1019

After Emo, a small town in Ontario (Canada), refused to recognize Pride Month, LGBTQ activists put together an impromptu "parade." A majority of the town councilors objected because no one had a "Straight Pride" in the town of 1,333. The small town's government refused to recognize Pride Month, saying that it would be unfair because there's no "Straight Pride" so Borderland Pride, the Pride organization for small towns on both sides of the Minnesota-Ontario border, planned the "ambush event." Seventy vehicles carrying hundreds of supporters traveled from as far away as three hours to set up booths, hand out Pride flags, and give prizes for such categories as "Emo Fair Queen 2020." The Northern Ontario Pride Network filed a complaint with the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, stating that "homophobia was the only reason behind the decision to deny" the resolution, a violation of Ontario law.



Black lesbian Karine Jean-Pierre (left) has been assigned chief of staff for Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) for her vice-presidential campaign. Born in the French West Indies island of Martinique, Jean-Pierre worked for both Barack Obama's presidential campaigns and the White House Office of Political Affairs during his first term. Since 2016, she has been national spokesperson for the progressive organization Move-



On, a commentator for NBC News and MSNBC, and a lecturer at Columbia University. During Harris' 2019 campaign, she leaped up to grab Harris' microphone back from a white, male, animal-rights activist who forced himself on the stage.

Harris at San Francisco Pride in 2019.

Politics on Our Side

Track current LGBTQ bills: <https://www.freedomforallamericans.org/2020-legislative-tracker/>

Washington, DC: The city's lone congressional representative, Eleanor Holmes Norton, wants answers about the skyrocketing number of LGBTQ hate crimes in the city that Donald Trump and the U.S. Attorney's Office ignore. She introduced legislation to give the city authority to prosecute local crimes. Reported hate crimes almost doubled from 2016 to 2018, most of them targeting LGBTQ people, especially transgender individuals.

California: Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) signed into law a bill making punishment for queer teenagers the same as for straight ones. Since 1944, state law gave judges the ability to keep straight teens off the public sex offender registry if the teens are of similar ages. Judges now can do the same for LGBTQ teenagers. Having sex with anyone under 18 is still illegal in California. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) doesn't understand the new law, proved by his assertion it allows adults to have sex with children without registering as sex offenders.

California: Senate Bill 132, requiring trans female prison inmates to be housed with women instead of cisgender men, is waiting a signature from Gov. Gavin Newsom. A 2016 federal court ruling also requires prisons to provide clothing and cosmetics to an inmate in accordance with gender identity and use correct pronouns when addressing them. Nationally, only 15 of 4,890 trans prisoners are housed according to their gender identity.

Florida: The 11th Circuit Court affirmed a lower court ruling requiring a Jacksonville school district to provide transgender student Drew Adams to equal access in the restroom matching his gender identity.

Idaho: A federal judge temporarily blocked a law barring transgender women from participating in school sports and requiring testing if someone questions an athlete's biological sex. Idaho is the only state with this prohibition. The judge, appointed by Donald Trump, used the Supreme Court decision on LGBTQ workplace rights to block the Idaho law despite a letter from Trump's Department of Education disagreeing with the conclusion.

Idaho: For the second time, a federal judge ordered the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to stop enforcing a new state law banning transgender people from correcting the sex marker on their birth certificates. The law violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In 2018, a U.S. magistrate had ordered the agency to find a process for the correction of gender markers on birth certificates. The overturned law permitted changes only to incorrect certificates caused by fraud. That case was brought by a transgender woman who was called a "tra**y" and a "fa***t" at a Social Security office when she showed them her birth certificate.

New York: On August 24, 2020, East River State Park in Brooklyn, was renamed in honor of legendary transgender activist Marsha P. Johnson on what would have been her 75th birthday.

Photos: <https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2020/08/state-park-renamed-honor-legendary-trans-activist-marsha-p-johnson/>

Texas: Nick Moutos, the state's assistant attorney general, was fired for his violent anti-Muslim and anti-LGBTQ tweets, many of them promoting conspiracy theories and many of them QAnon beliefs.

News Bits

* * * * *

**November 3, 8:00 pm: Deadline
County Clerk to Receive Ballots**

October 13: Deadline to Register

* * * * *

Dictionary.com is revising LGBTQ definitions and adding more terms by replacing “homosexual” and “homosexuality” with “gay,” “gay man,” “gay woman” or “gay sexual orientation.” “Gayness” is now defined as “gay or lesbian sexual orientation or behavior.”

Researchers report HIV has gone into remission in a Brazilian man who was treated with a new cocktail of medications. The 34-year-old, diagnosed with HIV in 2012, started antiretroviral therapy (ART) along with other medications including nicotinamide, a form of vitamin B3, had 58 weeks in remission.

After 57 weeks, HIV DNA could not be found in his cells, and HIV tests were negative.

In another case, the “Berlin patient” given a bone marrow transplant to treat leukemia from a donor with a mutated gene for the CCR5 protein, found on white blood cells, still tests negative for HIV. Although HIV uses the protein to enter the cell, it cannot attach to the mutated version.

The Asbury Memorial Church in Savannah is officially **the first Georgia church to break away** from the national United Methodist Church because of the UME’s discrimination against LGBTQ people.

News around the World

United States: A federal court ruled that the Social Security Administration’s blanket denial of Social Security survivor’s benefits to same-sex spouses who were prevented from marrying is unconstitutional.

United States: A federal judge ordered the State Department to issue a U.S. passport to the daughter of a married gay couple. DDT’s administration argued the child, born in England, was ineligible for birthright citizenship because she was biologically related to only one of the parents. The State Department’s rule is only for same-gender couples, not heterosexual couples. Both parents, Derek Mize and Jonathan Gregg, are U.S. citizens; their daughter was born to a surrogate using one father’s sperm. The argument against birthright citizenship was that she was “born out of wedlock.” The State Department is “reviewing the decision with the Department of Justice.” Oral arguments at the 9th Circuit Court for a similar case appealed by DDT’s administration are scheduled for October 7.

United States: The 4th Circuit Court ruled Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments Act protects trans students in the five-year legal battle by Gavin Grimm against Gloucester County School District (VA) after its ban on permitting students from bathrooms matching their gender identities. The case went to the Supreme Court in 2017 but was sent back to the district court which ruled in 2019 that the school district had discriminated against Grimm. The school board has filed an appeal for the entire 15-member 4th Circuit to hear the case against Grimm, now 21 years old.

United States: Two federal judges in different courts, one in D.C. and the other in New York, have temporarily blocked Donald Trump’s administrative rule permitting hospitals and healthcare workers to discriminate against transgender people.

Argentina: President Alberto Fernández signed a decree requiring 1 percent of public sector jobs be set aside for transgender people. The decree also creates a voluntary national registry for transgender government workers with the Ministry of Women, Gender, and Diversity to track how many government positions are held by transgender people.

Cake Battle Continues, Religion Loses

A rightwing troll ordered a cake with an anti-LGBTQ message from a lesbian baker, hoping he could declare anti-Christian bigotry when she refused. She took the order, but he failed to pick it up for several days. Eventually, she threw it away, and he threatened her with a lawsuit. April Anderson (right), owner of Good Cakes and Bakes bakery in Detroit with her wife Michelle, said that as Black lesbians they “are used to people discriminating against you and saying mean things to you.” She is also famous, having baked for Oprah Winfrey and appeared on the Today Show.



The customer paid for the cake and wanted the message: “Homosexual acts are gravely evil. (Catholic Catechism 2357)” The customer wrote, “I am ordering this cake to celebrate and have PRIDE in true Christian marriage.” Anderson discovered the buyer was David Gordon with the Twitter bio, “Copyeditor @ Church Militant. Lawyer, theology MA, author, sportsman, family man.” Church Militant is a far-right Christian website that opposes LGBTQ equality.

People who want a message must call in the request, and the order came online. Anderson waited until he picked up the cake until he called or came to pick it up. Gordon didn’t show up on July 25 to get the cake although Anderson had confirmed the date for the delivery. On July 30, he asked about the cake, and she told him that he could order another one. Nothing happened until Pride Source released the story, including the part about her not writing the message on the cake. On August 7, he threatened to sue the bakery for discrimination. He told Detroit Free Press to imagine the problems “if a homosexual couple arrived at their ‘wedding’ reception to find a Christian baker had made them a ‘straight’ cake.” He didn’t define a “straight cake.”

Michael Voris, the founder and president of St. Michael's Media / Church Militant, said in a statement emailed to the *Free Press*: “The incident was an action taken independently of the apostolate by an individual employee; Church Militant had no prior knowledge of it. The employee has been spoken to and has apologized for unnecessarily involving his fellow workers in a private endeavor.”

RT so the world knows ❤️



Lawmakers Protest Authoritarian Duda

Polish lawmakers wore rainbow-colored clothing and stood or sat in the order of the pride flag to protest President Andrzej Duda’s inauguration. They also wore rainbow-colored masks. Duda’s campaign meme: “LGBT are not people; they are an ideology.” He pledged to ban marriage equality, adoption by same-gender couples, and LGBTQ school curriculum.

People Who Make a Difference

Carrie Evans, city councilor in Minot (ND), came out as a proud lesbian after listening to hateful, angry statements from people in the town of almost 50,000 about flying the rainbow flag during Pride Month. (See video: <https://www.advocate.com/news/2020/9/14/nd-councilwoman-comes-out-proud-lesbian-response-bigot>) Her declaration about everyone having rights was in response to the citizens' comments described at this link: <http://ndspectrum.com/minot-your-homophobia-is-showing/> Oddly enough, people were angry because they had been called hateful and angry for these comments.



An older woman came out on video to her granddaughter who asked her what she meant about liking women. Her response: "I like women much more than men. I think boobs are nice... I think the penis—not that keen on it." She's looking for a woman in her late 60s.

Helen Thornton, resident of Washington State, has won her lawsuit to claim survivor's benefits based on her 27-year relationship with Marge Brown, who had a larger Social Security income than Thornton. Brown died in 2006, six years before the state legalized marriage equality. A federal court ruled the Social Security Administration's blanket denial of Social Security survivor's benefits to same-gender spouses prevented from marrying is unconstitutional. Thornton has fought



for her lawful benefits for two years. The case was certified as a national class action, giving other same-gender couples an avenue to claim them. In May, Lambda Legal won a separate class action lawsuit for same-gender couples blocked by law to meet the minimum nine months marriage requirement for survivor's benefits. The Social Security Administration has appealed that decision.

After 15 years of marriage and two children, **Jenni Barrett** came out to her husband as a lesbian, and her husband came out as transgender in 2016. Two years later, their son came out as gay. The couple are teachers in Phoenix (AZ). Their story is here: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-8673141/Mother-realized-gay-time-husband-came-transgender.html>

Notes from PFLAG

Facebook: Oregon Central Coast

PFLAG—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/103956190597>

Bravery's updates, information, and resources: <https://www.olallacenter.org/bravery-center>

COCTC + Bravery Trans Support.

Zoom details at events tab, <https://www.facebook.com/braverycenter/>

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 pflag-occ@gmail.com for an application.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

Because of PFLAG's work to protect people from COVID-19 infection, meetings will continue in Zoom. Meeting link below meeting dates/times.

Monday-Friday, 3:00-6:00 pm: Virtual drop-in support for teens on Bravery's Discord Server (Send a request on Facebook, Instagram, or email beckj@olallacenter.org)

PFLAG Zoom Online Support Group meets **every other Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 pm** until further notice for mutual support and encouragement in a time of isolation. All LGBTQ people as well as their families and friends are welcome.

September 23, 6:00 pm

October 7, 6:00 pm

October 21, 6:00 pm

November 4, 6:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/292522285>

Meeting ID: 292 522 285

Media Matters:

After 54 years, *Star Trek* is introducing its first transgender and non-binary characters, and they're being played by trans and non-binary actors. Trans actor Ian Alexander will play Gray, the Trill aliens serving as hosts for symbiotic creatures providing unique personal traits and skills. In a debut, non-binary actor Blu del Barrio plays the non-binary character Adira, an intelligent and introverted teenage amnesiac whose coming-out story will mirror del Barrio's own real-life coming out. Gay couple Lt. Commander Paul Stamets and Dr. Hugh Culber are played by Anthony Rapp and Wilson Cruz.

In the second clearly same-gender relationship in a Marvel film, the latest X-Men superhero spinoff *The New Mutants* highlights the film's relationship between Rahne Sinclair/Wolfsbane (*Game of Thrones* Maisie Williams) and Danielle Moonstar/Psyche (TV actress Blu Hunt) [left]. In the comic books, the two female characters did not have an intimate relationship.



Mary Anning, a 19th-century British paleontologist, discovered the fossil of an ichthyosaur when she was only 11 years old. Inspired by Anning's life, *Ammonite* introduces fictionalized Charlotte Murchison (Saoirse Ronan) to Anning (Kate Winslet) when Anning is in her forties. Murchison's husband pays Anning to help Charlotte over her "melancholia" by spending time with her looking for fossils, and the relationship moves to forbidden love. Trailer: <https://www.them.us/story/saoirse-ronan-kate-winslet-ammonite-trailer>

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: _____

Email: _____

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