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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

August 2017

Taking Action

Join the outcry against Donald Trump for attempting to ban transgender people from the military (p. 2): <https://www.change.org/p/allow-transgender-people-into-the-u-s-military>

HUD has erased six resources from its website that helps housing providers comply with nondiscrimination rules to protect LGBT people. You can protest that action here: http://go.fightforequality.org/page/s/denounce-ben-carson?source=MS_EM_PET_2017.07.16_B1_Denounce-Ben-Carson_X_F1_S1_C1_all

No scientific evidence exists to keep gay men from being blood donors. Because of a serious blood shortage, reversing this policy can save up to 6,000 lives. You can demand that the FDA repeal the gay blood ban: http://go.fightforequality.org/page/s/FDA-blood-ban?source=MS_EM_PET_2017.07.15_B3_FDA-Blood-Ban_X_F1_S1_C1_all

Suze Orman appears constantly on my public television station during fundraising. I have had some doubts about her financial advice, but I'm not an economist. I am a lesbian, however, and I refute her statement that people don't suffer discrimination if they are "proud." In an interview, she said, "Because I was proud of who I am, I was never discriminated against because I was gay. The less self-worth you have, the less net worth you have. Power creates money. Powerless repels it." People might want to note that Orman spent half her career in the closet. I'll stick with Ellen DeGeneres.—Nel Ward

August 5, 10:00 pm-12:00 noon

"Putting the T in Equality"

Transgender Justice Training (Basic Rights Oregon)

Newport Library

Drag Queens Delight in Reading to Children



Rainbow reading has a new dimension since drag queens have started going into libraries and reading to children. Created by the non-profit queer literary arts Radar Productions, the program has expanded from San Francisco to other libraries in the country. In Drag Queen Story Hour, young people can "defy rigid gender restrictions." A librarian said, "The children ... love the drag queens and want to have their picture taken with them. They adore the face-painting which we have had

accompanying the readings at our programs."

The experience is rewarding for both the children and the readers. Six-year-old James Mendenhall asked Honey Mahogany (above left), "Are you a boy or a girl?" She answered, "I guess I was born a boy, but I like to dress like a girl. It's for fun."

Panda Dulce (right), whose legal name is Kyle Casey Chu, said, "When I came out in the seventh grade, I lost all of my friends.... Drag Queen Story Hour is so important to me, and for our youth, because it converts our differences from shame into power." Dulce remembered when a child in blue glitter eye shadow ran up and asked, "Did you know I'm a boy?"

Drag Queen Story Hour is centered San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles, but other performances are popping up in cities across the United States such as Indianapolis and possibly Charlotte.



Store Highlights Gender-Neutral Line for Kids

Target has debuted gender-neutral clothing for kids from the Stockholm-based company Toca Boca, a company that started in 2011 as a mobile gaming app for kids. The company also will provide other retail items such as backpacks, pillows, and bedding. Toca Boca isn't the first; it joins such companies as Free to Be Kids, Jessy & Jack, and Muttonhead. Target's partnership, however, shows the corporation's continued commitment to LGBTQ rights.

Donald Trump woke up early on July 26 and started to tweet. "After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow....." was not continued by another tweet for another eight minutes. Some people at the Department of Defense thought that he could be declaring war. Instead, he declared war on the 15,000 transgender soldiers in active or reserve duty and the almost 150,000 transgender people who serve in the military in some capacity. The second tweet told them that they had lost their jobs, that they would not be allowed to serve in the military "in any capacity." Since then the military leaders have clarified that nothing is changing—for now. Yet we LGBTQ people need to decide how to prepare ourselves to cope with a highly unstable administration. More information: <https://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2017/07/28/fiat-by-tweet-fails/>

Politics on Our Side

New York City: The New York City Commission on Human Rights (NYCCHR) charged four substance abuse centers for discriminating against transgender patients. They refused transgender people, assigned them to rooms based on birth sex, segregated them into separate rooms, and/or gave unwarranted exams to determine hormone therapy or surgery. One of the centers is run by the Salvation Army, and two others also have religious affiliations.

California: The state now restricts publicly funded travel to 12 states because of their discriminatory laws. CA Attorney Xavier Becerra said, "We will not spend taxpayer dollars in states that discriminate."

Illinois: A new law puts the state in line with at least a dozen others that permit transgender citizens to change gender designations with authorization from a medical professional that they have undergone medically appropriate treatment. Surgery is no longer required in Illinois for a legal change in gender designation.

Illinois: The Department of Children and Family Services has signed a 17-page document that "sets mandatory minimum standards to promote the safety, adjustment and well-being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) children and youth in the Department's care" and prohibits "discrimination, bias, or harassment" on the part of DCFS employees or those of outsourced (purchase of service) agencies toward LGBTQ children, youth and their families. This order came after a transgender girl was treated as a male in a faith-based hospital where DCFS had placed her.

Kentucky: The state is liable for \$224,703 in fees and costs after Kim Davis refused to is-

sue marriage licenses to same-gender couples, according to a court ruling.

New Jersey: Two new state laws will advance transgender equality in schools: guidelines for ensuring "a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students" and allowing trans students to participate in gender-segregated activities in accordance with their gender identity.



Oregon: Oregon's Rep. Earl Blumenauer is one of four U.S. representatives being sued for flying the rainbow flag on the basis it represents the "religion" of homosexuality." Blumenauer displays the rainbow flag outside his office in the Capitol. Chris Sevier, the attorney filing the lawsuit, protests same-gender marriage by suing states for the right to marry a laptop computer. Thanks for the support, Rep. Blumenauer! [If LGBTQ is a religion, does that give us "religious rights"?)]

Virginia: Transgender Gavin Grimm may have graduated from a school in the Gloucester County School district without being able to use the boys' bathroom, but he will have his day in court with the 4th Circuit Court on September 12 to fight for his right to use the boys' bathroom when he visits his alma mater as an alumnus.

News Bits

The Church of England is taking steps toward LGBTQ rights. Its top leaders have voted on welcoming and affirming transgender Christians, pledging that Bishops would consider creating special services and liturgies to mark gender transition. In another vote, Church leaders condemn conversion therapy.

The right-wing has a reason for Megyn Kelly's NBC show's low ratings: liberal men are "all gay" and don't appreciate a "hot babe." Conservatives say they won't watch her show because she's no longer on Fox network.

International LGBT volunteers are fighting with Kurdish forces against ISIS in northern Syria after three years of persecution when they suffered stonings and executions from rooftops. The Queer Insurrection and Liberation Army, or TQILA, is the first LGBT military unit to battle the jihadi group.

Much has been written about the chain of people who saved the lives of two boys caught in a rip tide off the Florida coast after law enforcement decided to wait for a rescue boat. Less publicized, however, is that two lesbians, Tabatha and Brittany Monroe, were the first to swim over to try to save them.

God's Love and the LGBT Community Conference

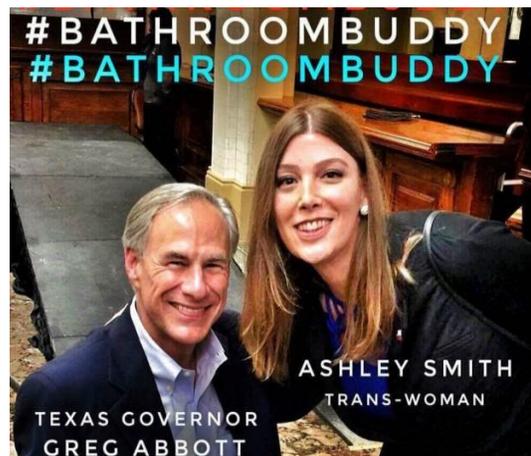
God's Love and the LGBT Community Conference in Salem, orchestrated by Rev. Dr. Gavin Shumate, was a great success. Jeanne St. John, PFLAG chair, Mackenzie Figuracion attended and were part of a panel representing Lincoln County and OCC PFLAG and sharing their personal experiences with churches as part of the LGBT community.—
Dawna McLain



The saying that a picture is worth a thousand words couldn't be truer than this selfie that longtime Ashley Smith took with the unsuspecting governor of Texas at a rally where he announced his bid for re-election. who has fought to keep transgender women out of women's bathrooms. Abbott fought for a law to send Smith into the state's men's bathrooms, but her photo gives her the last laugh.

Smith posted the picture on Facebook and Instagram with the caption: "How will the Potty Police know I'm

transgender if the Governor doesn't."



Politics in U.S., around the World

United States: A gay former DNC staffer, Scott Comer, has joined two Democratic Party donors in suing the Trump campaign and adviser Roger Stone for conspiring with Russia to hack and release emails. After Comer, chief of staff in the DNC finance department, was outed to his grandparents, his family relationships became strained, and he received threatening phone calls. Comer eventually left his job.

United States: Protesters succeeded in replacing a question about sexual orientation on the federal National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants. Comments from 89 organizations, 14,000 individuals, and 19 senators persuaded HHS to return the question. The survey is used to determine funding for elder care and support for caregivers. HHS refused to reinstate a second question about gender identity.

United States: The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that Arkansas authorities are required to list the names of both same-sex parents' on their child's birth certificates. The court said the state had chosen "to make its birth certificates more than a marker of biological relationships: the state uses those certificates to give married parents a form of legal recognition to unmarried parents," and same-sex couples deserve the same recognition. Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Neil Gorsuch dissented.

China: A Zhumadian judge has ordered the city's psychiatric hospital to publicly apologize to a man and pay him damages of approximately \$750 after he was forced into "conversion therapy" for 19 days. The first settlement of this kind in this region came after the institution diagnosed him as having "sexual preference disorder," that has no classification in the country's diagnostic criteria. China legalized homosexuality in 2001.



Germany: After allowing only civil unions since 2001, the country has legalized marriage equality in a vote of 393 to 226 with four abstentions. Parliament also voted to overturn the convictions of 50,000 gay men sentenced for homosexuality by Article 175, enforced during the Nazi era and not stricken from the books until 1994. The approximately 5,000 men still alive will each receive almost \$3,000 plus over \$1,500 for each year that they were imprisoned. Fritz Schmebling, 74, was convicted under the law as a teenager in 1957.

Scotland: The Scottish government has announced plans to update their guidelines for schools to include a mandate requiring gender neutral bathrooms be available for students. The original guidelines, issued in the 1960's set minimum standards for schools, and required an equal number of boys and girls restrooms. James Morgan, the Scottish Trans Alliance Manager for the Equality Network, said, "We welcome the proposal from the Scottish Government to introduce gender neutral toilets across more schools in Scotland. A significant number of Scottish schools already successfully have gender neutral toilets. Schools have found that gender neutral private cubicles with open washing spaces reduce bullying and graffiti. Therefore, gender neutral toilets are safer for all young people."

People Who Make a Difference

At 25, a secretary at RKO Studios, had too much time on her hands and decided to write a magazine for lesbians. **Edythe Eyde** used the anagram “Les Ben” as her nom de plume. wanted to make art for lesbians and used RKO work machines for the publication. A collection of Vice Versa from 1947 to 1948 is still available in a few archives around the U.S. After the film studio was sold, she left RKO but continued writing. Until her death in 2015, she wrote under her pen name. The National Lesbian and Gay Journalists has dedicated the Lisa Ben Award for Features Reporting to her memory.



Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben (1730-94), a volunteer to the American Continental Army, may be a reason that Queen Elizabeth is not our monarch. Benjamin Franklin recruited this “brilliant Prussian” military genius who came to America because Germany and France rejected his “affections for members of his own sex.” His sexual preference made no difference to American revolutionaries, and he became a U.S. citizen after helping win the Revolutionary War.



Edie Windsor has been given the Icon Award at the 2017 TrevorLIVE New York fundraising gala. Her activism for LGBTQ rights led to the Supreme Court case, *United States v. Windsor*, that legalized same-gender marriage in the entire United States. *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement* (2009), the story of her life with Thea Spyer, is a must view.

A number of **congressional Republicans** made a difference in LGBTQ lives last month when they opposed Donald Trump’s assertion that transgender people could not serve in the military “in any capacity.” At least seven GOP senators expressed some level of opposition: Joni Ernst (IA), Orrin Hatch (UT), John McCain (AZ), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Richard Shelby (AL), Dan Sullivan (AK), and Pat Toomey (PA). Even House members who voted for an amendment preventing a policy permitting the Pentagon to pay for transgender-specific health care came out in opposition to Trump’s statement. All Democrats opposed both the funding ban and Trump’s full ban. Several people voicing opposition to Trump’s tweets about the ban are veterans, including Ernst and McCain. Trump was awarded five draft deferments in the 1960s, four for education and the fifth for bone spurs. <https://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2017/07/28/flat-by-tweet-fails/>

LGBTQ Events

PFLAG is posting an LGBTQ Help Line for the Oregon Central Coast on its website, www.occpflag.org. The main telephone number is 541-265-1904.

Basic Rights Oregon is visiting Newport on August 5 to present its free “Putting the T in Equality” trainings. The workshop is for allies and loved ones of transgender folks to learn and discuss issues that affect them!

Basic Rights Oregon's Front & Center is holding a benefit featuring queer and trans artists of color in Portland on August 8 at the Artists Repertory Theater. All proceeds from the evening will go to fund the racial justice and transgender justice programs at Basic Rights Oregon. <https://pdxactivist.org/events/982>

Bethany Howe, a former journalism teacher and current Ph.D candidate at UofO, will be working with GSA students and advisors this year as well as acting as the newsletter correspondent. People at Taft High School may remember Bethany as the teacher Barton Howe.

Media Matters:

In his first album in four years, 4:44, rapper Jay-Z revealed that his mother, Gloria Carter, is a lesbian. Although Carter was known to have a relationship with Dania Diaz, executive director of Jay-Z's Shawn Carter Foundation, she now publicly shares her story. As the lyrics of “Smile” states, “Life is short, and it's time to be free.”

Hailed as a groundbreaking film, Naoko Oigigami's *Close-Knit* begins with Fumiko's acceptance of her transgender daughter, Rinko, whose story is seen through the eyes of 11-year-old Tomo. Neglected by her mother, Tomo finds shelter with her uncle Makio and his partner Rinko who tells the young girl about their childhood. (Japanese, 127 minutes, 2017)

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/tag/such-is-life-videos/> Check out this site for historical LGBT news clips. More videos available here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SuchIsLifeVideos>

OCC PFLAG Calendar

August 5, 10:00 pm-12:00 noon: Transgender Justice Training (Basic Rights Oregon)—Newport Library

August 5, 10:00 am-2:00 pm: PFLAG Tabling, Samaritan Teen Athletes, Samaritan Health Building, Newport

August 8, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Embarcadero, 1000 SE Bay Blvd., Newport

August 8, 7:00-9:00 pm: Basic Rights Oregon's Front & Center—1515 Southwest Morrison Street, Portland



August 24-27: Gender Odyssey—Seattle Convention Center

August 27, 11:00 am: OUT OR Women Nana's for Lunch—NW 3rd and Coast Streets, 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.



Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my annual membership fee.*

_____ Household (\$35)
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_____ Student/Limited Income (\$15)
_____ Contribution \$ _____

*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

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