



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

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

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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**

**December 2018**

## **Take Action**

Salvation Army placed a gag order on all employees, including their personal social media, regarding “political” subjects including marriage equality and other LGBTQ issues. Because the Army’s discrimination cost them millions in donations, it is trying to hide their anti-LGBTQ philosophy. Although the Army has opened a 15-room shelter specifically for homeless LGB people in Winnipeg (Canada), the place will not serve transgender people. The Salvation Army claims that it no longer discriminates, but it has never issued any apologies for the years of discrimination, for example discriminatory housing policies in New York.

Northern Indiana residents protested to Walmart because of white supremacists staffing the kettles during Thanksgiving weekend. Bell ringers wore patches reading “Aryan” and “WAR” (White Aryan Resistance).

This holiday season, you can let the Salvation Army know how you feel about its discrimination by **dropping this voucher into the bell ringer’s bucket.**

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2018/11/heres-voucher-can-drop-salvation-army-bucket-stand-lgbtq-rights/>

Thank Justin Trudeau, PM Canada, for including LGBT protections in NAFTA. Demand that the US and Canada keep LGBT protections in the new NAFTA! <https://petitions.moveon.org/sign/keep-lgbt-in-nafta>

**December 12, 6:30-8:00 pm**

**PFLAG Holiday Dessert Potluck  
St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport**



## Drag Queen Story Hour Leads to Pride Support

As libraries hold “Drag Queen Story Hour,” homophobic people fight the increasing number of programs where drag queens read to children; libraries are fighting back with protesters far outnumbered by supporters. Author Michelle Tea started the Hour in 2015 after her son Atticus was born. She imagined a storytime that promoted diversity in a family event reflecting her own family. In collaboration with RADAR Productions, she created the first Story House in a Castro library—a drag queen reading queer-inclusive children’s books to children. The program expanded to 27 official chapters from Tulsa (OK) to Bristol (UK) with many unofficial activities. With funding from New York City libraries, the New York chapter provides training programs, including sessions for Story Hour training for autistic children.

Events such as the Drag Queen Kids’ Party at the Olean Public Library in rural New York led to the highly conservative town’s first Pride event, a picnic in the park, after supporters with pride flags came to protect the librarian, Jennifer Stickle, from protesters including neo-Nazis. Over 70 children and their parents crowded into a reading room to watch Flo Leeta (right) read two books and lip-synch songs from *Frozen*, and a group is considering a Pride parade in 2019. More information: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/mitchellkuga/librarians-drag-queen-story-hour-lgbt-safe-spaces>



People have donated hundreds of books to the Orange City Public Library in northwest Iowa, and a Go Fund Me site collected \$2,000, after a homophobic activist burned four LGBTQ-themed books for youth that he checked out of the library: *Two Boys Kissing*; *Families, Families, Families*; *This Day in June*; and *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*. He also burned a tangerine-colored dress.

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### Six LGBTQ cases may go to the U.S. Supreme Court this year because of opposing positions from different circuit courts:

**Employment discrimination:** Two cases concern the legality of firing a person for being LGBTQ. In *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, the 11th Circuit Court dismissed the case over a 1979 precedent although several Supreme Court cases have undermined that ruling, including cases recognizing “sex stereotyping” and same-gender sexual harassment as sex. The appeals court refused to rule that “sexual orientation” has Title VII’s employment protections on the basis of sex. The 2nd Circuit Court used Title VII to rule that skydiving instructor Donald Zarda was illegally fired for being gay in *Zarda v. Altitude Express*. The Trump administration also wants to overturn the 6th Circuit Court ruling that a Michigan funeral home violated the law by firing employee Aimee Stephens for being transgender in *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*. The government, however, wants to determine *Bostock* and *Zarda* first before it tackles the question of gender identity.

**Trans military ban:** Four different courts, including two appellate courts, ruled against Trump’s ban on transgender people serving in the military, but the administration wants them combined in *Trump v. Karnoski* before the high court. Documents show that the administration rigged the military panel in establishing the ban.

**Bakery:** An Oregon case, *Klein v. Oregon Bureau of Labor*, the owners of Sweet Cakes by Melissa are appealing its failure to refuse service to same-gender couples to the Supreme Court. The case goes beyond last year’s case from the Colorado anti-gay baker to request refusal of service for anyone—not just LGBTQ people—because of their religious beliefs.

**Education:** Bathroom use for transgender students is front and center in *Doe v. Boyertown Area School District*; the case seeks a ruling to eliminate Title IX’s sex protections for transgender students.

# Politics on Our Side

Elaine Nobel became the first openly LGBTQ person elected to a state legislature in 1974; 44 years later, LGBTQ people and issues made history in the U.S.:

**Over 500 LGBTQ politicians** hold public office in the U.S.

**Over 240 LGBTQ candidates** won their primaries.

**Ten openly LGBTQ members of Congress**, half men and half women, will be sworn in on January 3, 2019. Two are senators.

Voters elected **36 new LGBTQ state legislators**, all Democrats, in **26 states**, **14 of them flipping red seats to blue**; a majority was women. January will see a new historical high of **134 openly LGBTQ state house members** taking office.

Virginia's openly transgender **Danica Roem** is joined by three other transgender women (**Gerri Cannon and Lisa Bunker**, New Hampshire, and **Brianna Titone**, Colorado) in state legislatures.

Election Day saw the first openly gay man elected governor (Rep. **Jared Polis** in Colorado), New Hampshire's first gay congressman (**Chris Pappas**), first openly LGBTQ person (lesbian **Angie Craig**) to represent Minnesota in the U.S. House, the first Kansan LGBTQ



person and Native American (lesbian **Sharice Davids**) in the U.S. House, first LGBTQ members (**Susan Ruiz and Bandon Woodward**) in the Kansas state legislature, first LGBTQ black man (gay **Malcolm Kenyatta**) elected to the Pennsylvania legislature, first lesbian mayor (**Teri Johnston**) elected in Key West in Florida, and first openly congressional bisexual (Sen.-elect **Krysten Sinema**, Arizona).

State Sen. **J.D. Ford** became the first out gay legislator in Indiana and took his oath of of-



fice in front of 200 well-wishers after defeating one of the most anti-LGBTQ senators in the state chamber.

Five years ago, **Tippi McCullough** was fired for marrying another woman; this year, she became the only LGBTQ member in the Arkansas legislature.

**Zach Wahls**, who defended his two lesbian moms before the Iowa House of Representatives in 2011, became an Iowa lawmaker.

Massachusetts voters upheld **transgender rights protections**.

**Kate Brown**, the country's first bisexual governor (Oregon), and **Tammy Baldwin**, the first LGBTQ senator (Wisconsin), were re-elected.

[Left: The first family in Colorado where a baker refused to sell a wedding cake to a same-gender couple. Gov.-elect Polis is holding the dog.]

## News Bits

At the Bend hospital, the St. Charles Health System has **removed gender designation** from patient identification bracelets.

A new study from GLAAD finds that television has an **all-time high of LGBTQ characters** with 8.8 percent of regular characters this year up from 6.4 percent last year. Fifty percent of these characters are also people of color, and an equal percentage is male and female. The percentage of transgender and bisexual characters are also increasing as well as regular or recurring HIV-positive characters. Netflix has the highest number of LGBTQ characters.

The Uptown People's Law Center and the MacArthur Justice Center has **filed a lawsuit against Illinois for censoring materials sent prisoners by Black and Pink**, focused on supporting imprisoned LGBTQ and HIV-positive people.

Hyatt Hotels CEO Mark Hoplamazian said that the **company was banning hate groups**.

Far-right TMZ, run by Donald Trump's friend, has flipped from spreading pro-propaganda about him to **opposing him** after Trump insists on the military service member ban. TMZ's 53 million followers are now exposed to such articles as "UN Ambassadors LOL in His Face" and complaints about Trump's \$2.5 million price tag for related events.

## GSAs, Socials for Youth

PFLAG is once again assisting LCSD's Gay/Straight Alliance Clubs (GSA). New PFLAG Board member Bruce Fairman has begun supporting the clubs. When Jeanne St. John had a health emergency, Bruce stepped in to co-facilitate the county-wide GSA Conference on October 6. He's completed his Volunteer Certification process with LCSD schools and has begun to sit in with the GSA's at Newport and Waldport High. During his second meeting with the Waldport Club, the Upstanders, he was invited to be initiated as a member of the Club. He also participated as a PFLAG rep at the Newport High Transgender Remembrance Ceremony on Nov. 16, led by their GSA.

Bruce is expanding PFLAG's work with these teens, and is scheduled to join in with Taft Middle and Taft High GSA meetings on Nov. 29. He'll continue in all four of these schools and then generate interest in Toledo, if possible, to help cultivate a welcoming and safe atmosphere there. Bruce also hopes to see how PFLAG can help Eddyville and Siletz schools support their LGBTQ youth after the beginning of the new year.—Jeanne St. John

## PFLAG Helps with LGBTQ Socials

Heather Pierce, Psychotherapist with Lincoln County Health and Human Services, and Bruce are teaming up to begin hosting monthly "Socials" for LGBTQ teens at various places around the County.—Jeanne St. John

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## More News about LGBTQ Students

**Parents who try to change their LGBTQ child's orientation and/or identity may double the child's risk of attempted suicide**, according to a new study published in the *Journal of Homosexuality*. These attempts triple if conversion therapy goes beyond just the parents and therapists or if religious leaders are brought in. The same statistics are true for depression in LGBTQ children. These "conversion" attempts also negatively impact socioeconomic status, self-esteem, availability of social support, and education.

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**Students in Canadian schools with gay-straight alliances were less likely to be discriminated against**, had lower odds of suicidal thoughts and had fewer suicide attempts—regardless of whether they were gay or straight.

## More Good LGBTQ News from the World

**Illinois:** Strawberry Hampton, a transgender woman in men's prisons, won in court for her claim that she was treated like a "sex slave" by both inmates and guards. A judge ordered her transfer to a women's facility and permission for her to attend a transgender support group.

**Kansas:** Laura Kelly, the governor-elect, plans to sign an executive order to protect LGBTQ state employees from discrimination once she assumes office. In 2007, former Gov. Kathleen Sebelius had invoked the order banning harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, but the next governor, Sam Brownback, removed the protections in 2015. He had said that legalizing discrimination against LGBTQ state employees allows them to "enjoy the same civil rights" as everyone else in the state because Kansas can discriminate against LGBTQ people in the private sector. Donald Trump appointed Brownback the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom.

**Massachusetts:** Voters stopped discrimination against transgender rights by keeping a 2016 law barring discrimination against transgender people in public spaces.

**Texas:** The Student Senate at Texas A&M, listed in "Unfriendly Schools for LGBT Students" from 2009 to 2014, has passed two resolutions in support of LGBTQ students—support for the school's new LGBTQ resource center and encouragement for more gender-inclusive restrooms on campus. The school also elected its first openly gay student body president, 21-year-old Bobby Brooks, in 2017.

**Bermuda:** In its on-again, off-again position on marriage equality, this British colony was the first country to legalize same-gender equality, make it illegal, and then return the rights to LGBTQ people. The country's Supreme Court ruled that the ban on marriage equality was unconstitutional, but the Parliament passed another law banning marriage equality. The court again declared the law unconstitutional, but Parliament is considering another law.

**Scotland:** Schools will immediately provide lessons about LGBTQ people and historical events in the first country to mandate LGBTQ-centered curriculum. Included are "themes like LGBTI terminology and identities, tackling homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, prejudice in relation to the LGBTI community and promoting awareness of the history of LGBTI equalities and movements." Scotland will also soon have gender neutral bathrooms.

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## LGBTQ-Friendly Adult Foster Care in Lincoln County

Catherine Hingson and Cynthia Stanley-Adams offer care for people who can no longer care for themselves at home and would prefer to be in a home environment. Hingson says, "It can be challenging for the LGBTQ community to find a placement for good elder care and we offer a good option. In this Class 2 home, they serve those who benefit from having nutritious meals prepared for them, assistance with the daily tasks of living, and as much independence as possible. She points out that a smaller home setting benefits residents with less exposure to prevalent communicable diseases, less staff turn-over, more quiet, and greater involvement in selecting home-cooked meals and activities of their choice.

**Contact Sunset Senior Living** at 503-545-9339  
email: [sunsetseniorliving@gmail.com](mailto:sunsetseniorliving@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.sunsetseniorliving.com](http://www.sunsetseniorliving.com)



# People Who Make a Difference



Lead actresses **Isabelle McCalla and Caitlin Kinnunen** were broadcast while kissing in Macy's 92<sup>nd</sup> Thanksgiving Day parade at the end of a televised performance of a musical number from the Broadway show *The Prom*. The first same-gender kiss during the parade was widely praised—with a bit of dismay from some conservatives. The show's plot focuses on out-of-work theater actors who help an

Indiana lesbian couple after the PTA threatens to cancel the dance if they attend.

The recently elected LGBTQ congressional members will be sworn in on January 3, 2019, but 364 days earlier, Alabama's Democratic senator, **Doug Jones** was sworn into office by homophobic VP Mike Pence. With him was his **gay son Carson**, a zookeeper in Colorado, who wore a rainbow boutonniere gifted to him by the DC Homos. On January 3, 2019, Pence will be swearing in a lesbian and a bisexual woman for the Senate.



**Pedro Pastor** (left) from Guatemala and **Erick Alexander Duran** from Honduras were one of several same-gender couples who married when the migrant caravan reached Tijuana on November 17, 2018. The first couple to be married, Erick Dubon from Honduras and Pedro Nehe-mias from Guatemala have been together almost three years. Two other gay couples, three lesbian couples, two trans woman/cis man couples, and one straight couple from the caravan also

married with three officiants from the Unitarian Universalist Church in California presiding. About 80 LGBTQ people arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border in the first part of the caravan. Like many others in the caravan, Pedro and Eric intend to apply to the U.S. for asylum because of violence in their home countries.

## PFLAG Celebration, Scholarships

Join PFLAGers for the Annual Holiday Dessert Potluck on December 12. Exchange holiday traditions and share in supporting those who struggle during the holidays.

Applications for scholarships from the Pride Foundation and The Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA) are due on January 11. These scholarships, awarded to build leadership and promote diversity in LGBTQ communities, may be used for any post-secondary education including nontraditional degrees, trade or technical programs, community colleges, four-year public and private universities, and accredited certificate programs. Information: <https://pridefoundation.org/find-funding/scholarships/application/>



**Above:** Sphen and Magic, a pair of male gentoo penguins at Sea Life Sydney Aquarium in Australia, have hatched the egg given them and proudly care for the chick. The gender of the little one will be determined through DNA by the end of January. For their courtship, the couple exchanged pebbles, gathering more than any other pair at the aquarium.

**Right:** A gay couple laughs at bigotry when homophobic graffiti defaced their apartment door.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**December 2, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Women at Nana's for Lunch—NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

**December 5, 6:00 pm:** GAYME Night at Café Mundo w/ Queers and Peers

**December 11, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

**December 12, 6:30-8:00 pm (new time!):** PFLAG Meeting, PFLAG Holiday Dessert Potluck—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**January 11:** Deadline for scholarships (left)

**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](mailto: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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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