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Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered 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

November 2012

Take Action!

Seattle-based luxury retailer Nordstrom Inc. has declared its support for marriage equality. Company president Blake Nordstrom sent a companywide memo, co-signed by executors and brothers Erik and Pete, laying out the retailer's "philosophical approach" to business, which includes a workplace where "every employee is welcomed and respected." Thanks can be phoned or emailed: <http://shop.nordstrom.com/c/customer-service-contact-us?origin=customerService>

After her parents obtained a lawyer, a third-grade girl in Nashua School District (NH) was allowed to move to another school that would acknowledge her as transgender. She may now use her female name and pronouns, use the girls' bathrooms, and wear clothes that she prefers. Yet the district still has no policies in place for transgender students. Google "Nashua School District" and "petition" to appeal to this school district. It needs to have specific district-wide policies in place that create a safety net for all children. A child should not have to transfer to another school for her own safety. Board contact: boe@nashua.edu

The Log Cabin [gay] Republicans waited until last week to endorse Mitt Romney for president, explaining their stand by saying that he isn't as bad as people might think. Four years ago they enthusiastically supported John McCain. Contact information: rcooper@logcabin.org

Vote As If Your Life Depends on It!

Election Day, November 6

Basic Rights Endorsements:

http://www.basicrights.org/equality-candidates/#Statewide_Candidates

Fall State PFLAG Meeting in Newport

On Saturday, Oct. 27 the Oregon State PFLAG Council met at St. Stephen's Church in Newport, hosted by Brent Burford and Jeanne St. John, co-chairs of PFLAG OCC. Representatives from PFLAG chapters, including Bend, Hermiston, Pendleton, Corvallis, Albany, Gold Beach, and Grants Pass, met to learn more about fundraising from Jett Johnson, Oregon's PRIDE Foundation leader. Those attending also shared information about chapters' activities and events, struggles, and successes. Lonnie Read, the Council's treasurer, provided information about reports required by PFLAG National, the IRS, and state of agencies. After the meeting many of the group met for an enjoyable social time and dinner. —Jeanne St. John

Conservative Religious Groups Protest Anti-Bullying, LGBTQ Rights for Kids

Family Research Council's Tony Perkins criticized the American Library Association for a curriculum that educates students about their library privacy rights. "Stopping them just got a whole lot harder," Perkins said in his radio address. "The Left wing's favorite billionaire, George Soros, is giving the ALA a half-million dollars a year to develop a 'privacy curriculum' that teaches kids how to 'bust through censor walls,' 'encrypt their communication,' and 'override filters.' Even worse, librarians are told 'to inform students that their book circulation data will never be shared with anyone, including their parents.'" Thank you, ALA and George Soros.

Bryan Fischer of the American Family Association (AFA) said that kids having to eat lunch with someone new will advance the "homosexual agenda." This year the Southern Poverty Law Center created a anti-bullying program called "Mix It Up Day." Scheduled for October 30, the program's rules are very simple: eat lunch with someone different. AFA has encouraged its members to keep their children home on October 30 if their schools participate in this program and pressure schools to drop the project.

Fischer went even further, calling CNN the "gay Gestapo" after anchor Carol Costello objected to his anti-rhetoric and cut him off. His rant included the comparison of the "Mix It Up" event to injecting candy bars with cyanide on Halloween. "We want parents to be aware that any program that comes from the Southern Poverty Law Center is going to be toxic to their student's moral health."

On his AFA-sponsored radio show, Focal Point, Fischer told his audience, "[Costello] cut my water off just as soon as I started to talk about the health risks of homosexual behavior. But Carol Costello, the gay gestapo, the Nazis in the gay gestapo, they do not want to hear the truth about the homosexual behavior because what they're about is promoting this lifestyle--not promoting diversity, but promoting pervert-sity."

East Aurora School District 131 (IL) passed a policy intended to keep transgender students safe on October 15 and then repealed it four days later after protests instigated by the Illinois Family Institute which described policy-supporters as "gender/sexuality anarchists" on its website. Anthony Martinez, executive director of the Civil Rights Agenda executive director, pointed out the irony of rescinding protection for trans children on Spirit Day, a time to show solidarity and support for those being bullied. "You have been bullied into having this meeting," he told the board. "I want you to think about the message you are sending."

Both IFI and its parent group, the American Family Association, have been designated as "hate groups" by the Southern Poverty Law Center. IFI spokesperson Laurie Higgins called being gay "evil," has compared it to incest and said that supporting LGBT Pride is "implicitly ... embrac[ing] heresy."

Politics on Our Side

Now that California has a **state law limiting "conversion" counseling**, psychological therapy to persuade gay people to adopt a heterosexual identity, other states are considering similar laws. In New Jersey, Assemblyman Timothy J. Eustace, an openly gay father of two, plans to introduce a bill that would outlaw use of the technique on those under 18 years old. Gov. Jerry Brown (CA) waited until the end of September to sign the law; the Liberty Counsel plans to sue to overturn it. You can petition your governor to have this law in your state: http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/pledge_conversion_therapy/

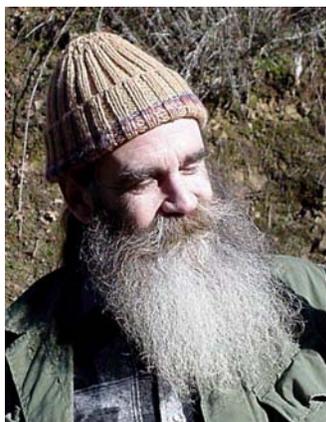
The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from anti-gay National Organization for Marriage after it **failed to thwart Maine's campaign disclosure law**. The group donated \$1.9 million to a PAC that helped repeal Maine's marriage equality law. Maine's campaign disclosure law requires groups, including NOM, that raise or spend more than \$5,000 to influence elections to register and disclose donors.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which **endorsed 175 openly LGBT candidates in 2012** including eight candidates running for U.S. Congress, has announced its annual "Races to Watch" list featuring openly LGBT candidates. The highlighted 12 candi-

dates are involved in groundbreaking runs for political office this year.

One of the 12 is Oregon's Kate Brown, incumbent running again for Secretary of State. My other favorite is Rep. Tammy Baldwin (R-WI) who could become the first out senator. David Cicillin (RI), Sean Patrick Maloney (NY), Kyrsten Sinema (AZ), Mark Takano (CA), and Richard Tisei (MA) are all running for the House; Tisei would become the first out Republican elected to Congress as a non-incumbent. State races include Josh Boschee (ND), Marie Mayor and Andy Staton (DE), Tim Brown (OH), and Stephen Skinner (WV). Follow the progress of Victory Fund and their candidates at <http://www.victoryfund.org/>.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has officially confirmed that **same-sex couples will officially be considered families in immigration proceedings**, a policy that will help keep many from being split up by deportation because they will be considered "low priority" by prosecutors in deportation cases if certain factors are present. Of the 36,000 binational same-sex couples in the U.S., nearly half are raising children. The next step is for the courts and Congress to make relief permanent and provide access to green cards for all LGBT families.



Help Build the Northwest AIDS Memorial

Jonathan Reitan has created an online photo memorial for people from Oregon and southwest Washington) who have died from HIV/AIDS. Although he writes that he has over 100 photos, he knows that there are more. At this time the photos are on a Facebook page, but Reitan plans to move them to a website where people can share photos, information, and memories. Reitan said, "Let us never forget!" <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.218400456071.175826.629496071&type=1>

[This photo of Patrick Potter shows the diversity of people lost to AIDS in our communities.]

Siletz Tribe Holds First Coming Out Day Celebration

PFLAG was represented at the first-ever Coming Out Day BBQ Celebration by the Siletz Tribe. Speakers from the local tribe and Lewis & Clark College gave information about the historical role of honor accorded two-spirit or LGBT tribal members. An excellent Basic Rights Oregon video showed several LGBT Indian couples talking about their lives and experiences. Siletz Tribe members were warmly invited to attend PFLAG meetings.

A new NBC Latino/IBOPE Zogby survey shows that 6 out of 10 Latinos in the sample support marriage equality. Of the 38 percent who said they disagree, 31 percent said they did so strongly.

San Francisco's new Catholic archbishop, the Rev. Salvatore Cordileone, was one of the leading supporters of Prop. 8, 2008's successful effort to ban same-sex marriage in the state.

Watch this video from a minister in Springfield (MO) about adding LGBT rights to a city non-discrimination ordinance! <http://www.care2.com/causes/the-best-gay-rights-video-youll-see-today.html> At the beginning, it seems to be anti-LGBT, but the shocker comes at the end. It's one that you will recommend to everyone you know—or some you don't! Rev. Phil Snider hits the ball out of the park!

Local PFLAG October Activities

LCSD School Board Gets Preview of Gay 101

At their Oct. 9 meeting, LCSD School Board members heard about plans for PFLAG to conduct inservice trainings for all district high schools on "Gay 101." Based on the bully prevention research conducted by GLSEN, the materials provide data on the effects of bullying on LGBT students including mental and physical health issues, school dropout rates, and rates of suicide compared to other students. The Board members also received the Genderbread graphic that explains gender identity, gender expression, biological sex, and sexual orientation as well as a fact sheet with definitions and basic information about the number of species exhibiting homosexual behavior (1500+), the number that exhibit homophobia (1), and the approximate percentage of LGBT persons in every culture. The first inservice will be at Newport High on Oct. 31.

Annual Coming Out Party at October PFLAG Meeting

National Coming Out Week was celebrated at our October meeting where we shared stories of our own "coming out" as LGBT, parents, and straight allies. These tales revealed that coming out is an ongoing process that changes with the ages and stages of our lives. GSA clubs received copies of the excellent article "18 Things to Think About Before Coming Out" to encourage students to develop enough support to be comfortable and safe when they do come out. Students from Newport High and Angell Job Corps participated in the meeting—and enjoyed the Coming Out Week cake!



People Who Make a Difference

The Out in the Silence Campaign has announced the winners of the 2012 Award for Youth Activism designed to encourage, highlight and honor creative and courageous young people and their work to call attention to bullying, harassment, bigotry and discrimination and to promote safe schools and inclusive communities for all.



Justin Kamimoto
Winner of the 2012
Out In The Silence
Award for Youth Activism

Justin Kamimoto of Fresno (CA), 18, started his activism by founding his school GSA in the conservative San Joaquin Valley. Soon after he joined the board of Reel Pride, Fresno's annual LGBT film festival, and then moved on to found MyLGBT+, that raises public awareness about the needs of LGBT youth. Kamimoto is now a sophomore at California State University at Fresno.

Ollin Montes of Longmont (CO), 17, fought back when a right-wing talk radio jock tried to stop the first Diversity Day at the high school with workshop encouraging students to understand and respect cultural and other differences. Montes, a member of the school's GSA and the city's youth council, won: the event he helped organize went forward and was a huge success. Now he is working with statewide advocacy organization One Colorado to make his and other schools and communities in the region more inclusive and accepting of all.



Ollin Montes
Winner of the 2012
Out In The Silence
Award for Youth Activism

Isaac Gomez of San Diego (CA), 17, came out five years ago as female-to-male transgender and shared his story with a college class of more than 100 medical and psychology students. Now a Stanford University freshman, he continues to show that transgender is normal, including participation in activities to prevent bullying and harassment in the San Diego school district, appearing on CNN, and speaking at the International Conference of Families for Sexual Diversity in Chile.



Isaac Gomez
Winner of the 2012
Out In The Silence
Award for Youth Activism

Tanner Uttecht of Shawano (WI), 14, got fired up after the school newspaper published an opinion piece condemning gay adoption and parenting. He took his concerns to his gay parents, and he and his dad talked to the district superintendent who issued a public apology. After



Tanner Uttecht
Winner of the 2012
Out In The Silence
Award for Youth Activism

the gay hate group Liberty Counsel made the story a national controversy, Uttecht began wearing pins to school with rainbows and that read, "I vow to help end bullying against LGBT people. My father is gay. I am a straight ally." Teacher resistance to this action caused him to form a GSA; a nearby PFLAG group called an "angelic troublemaker."

LGBT advocates at the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana **BreakOUT!** wanted to end the criminalization of youth in New Orleans. They not only got seats on an Advisory Committee to recommend changes within the NOPD but also shared their stories with the U.S. Department of Justice during a federal investigation of the corrupt and scandal-ridden NOPD. A groundbreaking Consent Decree named discrimination toward the LGBT community as a top concern and established concrete measures to address profiling and discrimination against LGBT youth.

Marriage Equality Passes Another Barrier

The ultra-conservative Chief Judge Dennis Jacobs of the 2nd Court of Appeals struck down the so-called Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional in his ruling for Edie Windsor's case that she should not have to pay estate taxes in keeping with marriage laws.

In so doing, the George H.W. Bush nominee concluded that any law which discriminates against gay men and lesbians requires heightened scrutiny because this class of people "have historically endured persecution and discrimination"; "homosexuality has no relation to aptitude or ability to contribute to society"; "homosexuals are a discernible group with non-obvious distinguishing characteristics, especially in the subset of those who enter same-sex marriages"; and "the class remains a politically weakened minority." Thus any attempt by government to discriminate against gay people must have an 'exceedingly persuasive' justification."

This is a landmark case that will probably go to the U.S. Supreme Court this coming year and may determine whether marriage equality will be the law of the land.

Conservatives Pass Up the Chance for 300,000 Jobs!

The conservative *Wall Street Journal* understands the financial benefit that marriage equality would bring to the country: "According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 646,464 same-sex couples in the U.S. in 2010. Of those, 131,729 were identified as married. So let's assume that if gay marriage were legalized that most if not all of those couples would get married or 'legally married.' That would result in \$16,569,518,780 being injected into our consumer-based economy. Assuming that \$16.5 billion and change turned into \$50,000 a year jobs (the national average), you would create about 331,391 jobs!"

Despite the fact that this surge would be temporary, more and more LGBT people would be interested in getting married, and LGBT people would come from Europe to tie the knot. Conservatives are turning down over 300,000 jobs in this country!

Television the Go-To Place for LGBT Characters

Television is making LGBT characters more visible: according to GLAAD's 8th annual report tracking gender and ethnic diversity on TV, 111 LGBT characters have regular or recurring roles on scripted shows this fall, some of them from British imports. One of my recent favorites is on the PBS *Upstairs, Downstairs* and I'm looking forward to more about the gay butler Thomas Barrow when *Downton Abbey* returns in January.

The 31 regular LGBT characters on main network scripted shows mark the highest percentage (4.4 percent) in the organization's eight years of counting, up from 2.9 percent last year. Cable TV has even more regular LGBT characters, 35 compared to 29 last year. Even LGBT people of color are appearing with seven black characters this year, compared to none last year.

HBO's vampires and witches series *True Blood* has the most, with six characters. Fox high school musical comedy *Glee* comes in second with two gay teens, a lesbian couple, and new transgender choir member Unique. Although gay characters have appeared on shows from *The Good Wife* to Canada's *Degrassi*, comedies such as *Partners*, *The New Normal*, and *Go On* have pushed up the number of characters.

The more that people see LGBT people, the more accepting they become. Television is doing its part.

Classic Film to Be Shown on OPB

Inlaws & Outlaws, a Seattle film that weaves together the true stories of both gay and straight couples and singles in a narrative of stories of love, loss and belonging, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. (PST) on Sunday, Nov. 11 on OPB. The documentary has won several awards since it first came out seven years ago.

GSA Groups to Attend Youth Leadership Conference

Members and advisors of Lincoln County GSA groups are invited to the November 3 Lincoln County Youth Leadership Conference. Last year PFLAG sponsored two Lincoln County GSA Conferences to promote communication among GSA groups in the county. This year the focus of the conference has expanded to include all teen leaders; GSA members will be among the presenters in the LGBT Issues strand. A GSA conference is scheduled in Spring 2013 to strengthen our growing number of GSA clubs at local high schools and the Job Corps.

November PFLAG Meeting Focuses on Homeless Teens

Our November 14 PFLAG program will include showing of a video from the public television program *In the Life* about the plight of homeless gay teens. Statistics show that up to 40% of homeless teens are gay. We'll have time for discussion and sharing of information about the housing situation for gay teens in Lincoln County who are no longer welcome in their own homes. There will also be support group time—and great refreshments!

Information about local PFLAG activities on pp. 2, 4, and 7 thanks to Jeanne St. John.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

November 1, 9:00 am: OUT Lesbian Coffee—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

November 3: Lincoln County Youth Leadership Conference

November 11, 7:00 pm: *Inlaws & Outlaws*, OPB

November 13, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

November 14, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

November 16: International Day of Tolerance

November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 25: International Women's Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women beginning The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

November 27, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians--Green Salmon, Yachats

December 4, 9:00 am: OUT Lesbian Coffee—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

December 18, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians--Green Salmon, Yachats

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Activity Night" (call for information (541)994-5597)

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

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, coastalaidnetwork@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.

CLASS Women's Potlucks: Jeannette at 867-6993.

Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:

www.outoregoncoast.com

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

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

_____ Individual or Household (\$30)
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*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

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