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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

May 2018

Take Action

Some parents in Oregon are urging their schools to opt out of the "Battle of the Books" because one of the entries is *George* about a fourth-grader who comes out as a transgender girl. The book won the 2016 Stonewall Award from the American Library Association. Parent Mike Anderson read the book with his second grader and rejected the censorship: "I found it to be a beautiful story of self-identity and acceptance." You can address your comments here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/138437506195503/>

The Justice Department is removing questions about gender identity and sexual orientation from a survey about violence. You have until May 11 to complain to the DOJ about this lack of information: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/04/11/2018-07448/agency-information-collection-activities-proposed-ecollection-ecomments-requested-revision-of-a#further-info>

Yachats PRIDE!

Cris Williamson is returning to Yachats on June 2 (2:00 pm) for the second annual PRIDE celebration.

Other PRIDE Events:

June 1: Kickoff Cabaret & Dance

June 2: Transgender Tea Party, Pride Feast, Gay Bingo Extravaganza, Dancing with HURTR

June 3: Pride Hike, Negotiation & Consent Class, Pride Family Picnic, Puppy Parade/Costume Contest

Go to their wonderful website for more details, tickets, and shopping! <http://yachatspride.org/>

OCCC PFLAG Stays Busy with Task Force

The quarterly LGBT Task Force meeting on April 25 marked the ten-year anniversary of this group which began as an inter-agency gathering of LGBTQ health and educational professionals after the suicide of a NHS student. Those attending the first Task Force meeting recommended the establishment of a local PFLAG chapter as an umbrella for LGBTQ activities. Items discussed at the April 25 meeting:

Leadership Academies during the school year where high school students are invited to one-day workshops for problem-solving, communication skills, bullying prevention, LGBTQ 101, etc. All county high schools except Taft attended the April event with over 60 students.

Programs on May 8 for students grades 9-12 from Eddyville and Siletz Charter Schools at the Fairgrounds to examine team-building, problem-solving, healthy relationships, substance use/abuse, restorative justice, and the law regarding current issues in school, i.e. sexting, vaping, and A/D use. (School staff will have a separate program at the Yacht Club.)

An agreement between PAADA and Lincoln County Juvenile Department to operate an alternative program to the court system.

PAADA applications for grants regarding the opioid crisis, suicide prevention, and mental health.

An alternative to traditional punitive discipline through training student groups in restorative justice by creating a plan benefitting both the school and student. The school district has a common curriculum for Social/Emotional Learning for elementary grades that includes bullying prevention.

PFLAG discussed the increase in emerging trans/non-binary/genderfluid identities among LCSD students who are transitioning at a younger age and getting support from the district and school staff. PFLAG member Gavin Shumate, MD has joined recent LGBT/Trans 101 workshops to explain gender identity issues. PFLAG raised \$1,250 in three days to underwrite costs of almost 100 movie tickets for students to attend the movie *Love, Simon*. The new gay pastor at Toledo United Methodist Church, Ryan Scott, has been welcomed with his fiancé, Andre Casey. They live in the parsonage adjacent to the church.

Disney Supports LGBTQ Rights

Disney just released rainbow Mickey Mouse ears in time for Pride Month—but available only at Disneyland and Disney World.

Disney also threatened to stop any filming in Georgia if the state passed the bill that allows religious groups to discriminate adoption by LGBTQ people. The NFL also said that such a law could cost Atlanta the Super Bowl; hundreds of other companies, including Atlanta-based Coca-Cola and Delta Airlines, also opposed to the measure. Economy won; the bill failed.



Politics on Our Side

Anchorage: Voters defeated Proposition 1, an anti-transgender bathroom measure, by 53-47. The current nondiscrimination protections for trans people passed by the city Assembly in 2015 will remain. Overview of anti-LGBTQ bills: <https://www.vox.com/2016/5/5/11592908/transgender-bathroom-laws-rights>

Montevallo (AL): This town of almost 7,000 has joined Birmingham and become the second city in Alabama to declare rights for LGBTQ people. The small town is in Shelby County which filed a lawsuit removing protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.



California: The state Assembly has passed a bill making the selling or advertising of gay conversion therapy a violation of state consumer fraud laws. Assemblyman Evan Low (above), a survivor of conversion therapy, said, “This notion that we would accept as a legal practice that conversion therapy works is antithetical to my very existence in this body.”

Hawaii: The 12th state to pass a ban on so-called “gay conversion therapy” treatments conducted on minors followed Maryland which passed a similar bill earlier this month.

Kansas: The House failed to pass a bill by five votes that would have allowed adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ parents.

Texas: A federal judge in Texas ruled that workplace discrimination against LGBT people is already banned by federal law in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Nicole Wittmer lost her case because the judge ruled she lacked sufficient evidence, but people can now sue on the basis of discrimination against sexual orientation and gender identification.

United States: A federal court in Seattle found that a lawsuit against DDT for its discriminatory ban against transgender people openly serving in the military can move forward because the ban violates the U.S. Constitution. The injunction against DDT remains until the trial. Transgender military members are now protected by four separate court injunctions.

United States: All four military service chiefs are fine with transgender members in the military, and none of them is aware of any negative effects—zero reports of problems in cohesion, discipline, and morale. Their findings oppose statements in a report written by VP Mike Pence and activists from anti-LGBTQ organizations. Federal judges have already ruled that a ban against transgender people serving in the military is sex discrimination.

United States: The 2020 census will have a question for people about whether they are in a “same-sex” or “opposite-sex” relationship.

HIV Alliance is providing free HIV and HVC testing at the Coos Health and Wellness building at 281 Laclair Street, Coos Bay, the second and fourth Fridays of each month. More information from Dane Zahner at dzahner@hivalliance.org.

News Bits



In March, Voodoo Doughnut donated part of the proceeds of its Gay Bars to the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. [Gay Bars: Raised yeast doughnut chock full of luscious Bavarian cream and topped with vanilla frosting and all the colors of the rainbow.]



A griffon vulture raised by two male parents in the Artis Amsterdam Royal Zoo during its first year has been released in Sardinia as part of a conservation program.

The LGBTQ pride festival in VP Mike Pence's home town saw over 2,000 attendees, including Pence look-alike, New Yorker Glen Pannell (aka "Mike Hot-Pence"), who collected donations for Indiana Youth Group that supports LGBTQ youth in the state. The high school student creating the event as a high school project, bisexual Erin Bailey, raised over \$6,000 for the event through an online fundraiser.

Anti-LGBTQ Leader Runs for MA Governor

Scott Lively, one of the people behind the anti-LGBTQ Oregon Measure 9 in 1992, is running for governor in Massachusetts again. He is now seeking support from closeted "homosexuals" who he says fear that "leftists [are] actively hunting them like fugitive criminals to 'out' them in a humiliating manner if they resist or (if they are politicians) dare to vote against 'gay' progressive goals." He claims to "tolerate discrete consensual adult relationships" and "respect free will." That declaration overlooks his "love" for people when he has said homosexuality is "the most egregious form of rebellion against God" and is a sin that is "worse than murder and worse than genocide."



In March, Gays against Guns (GAG) joined hundreds of thousands of people in protesting gun violence. In Washington, about 100 members of the New York-based Gays against Guns (GAG) set up camp with a huge rainbow banner and pink Mylar strips. They also dressed in white, covered their faces with veils, and carried the photos, names, and short bio of a person lost to gun violence. Earlier, GAG members supported students in Parkland (FL) on their first day of school after their classmates had been murdered in a shooting that killed 17 people. Emma Gonzalez, the bisexual president of the school's GSA, told them how her GSA leadership for three years had honed her activist skills. Her latest inspiration is transgender activist Sylvia Rivera, a veteran of the 1969 Stonewall uprising that began the LGBTQ-rights movement. Formed in response to the Pulse gay nightclub massacre just 200 miles from Parkland, GAG discussed how the LGBTQ community is disproportionately affected by gun violence in both suicides and victims of hate crimes.

The World on Our Side

China: After the nation's social media platform Sina Weibo banned all comics and videos with violent, pornographic, and homosexual content, the protest forced them to reverse part of the ban to allow LGBTQ content. The nation's official newspaper *People's Daily* even published an opinion piece, "It Is Common Sense to Respect People's Sexual Orientation." Homosexuality was decriminalized in China in 1997 and removed in 2001 from the government's list of mental disorders, but the nation has no legal protections for couples.

Kenya: The nation's Court of Appeal has ruled against forced anal exams after two men, arrested in 2015, were subjected to examinations by both hospital staff and security teams and put through mandatory HIV testing after an arrest on suspicion of having sex. A lower court ruled against the men in 2016 before the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission appealed. Another Kenyan lawsuit, to be decided within a few months, could eliminate the nation's ban on homosexuality. Kenya is one of 38 nations in sub-Saharan Africa to ban same-gender relationships, and seven other countries in the region permit forced anal exams: Cameroon; Egypt; Lebanon; Tunisia; Turkmenistan; Uganda; and Zambia.



The Kenya Film Classification Board has banned the film *Rafiki*, about two Kenyan girls who fall in love. The ban is supposedly not against homosexual content but opposes its view "as a way of life in Kenya." The board asked the filmmakers to change the ending because it was "too hopeful." *Rafiki* is the first Kenyan film to be shown at the Cannes Film Festival.

Trinidad/Tobago: The High Court has struck down the country's law criminalizing anal intercourse and sex between two adults of the same sex, ruling that the law is "irrational and illegal" because it violates the rights to privacy and freedom of expression. The law will remain in place until a July hearing to determine whether it can be modified or if it has to be entirely removed.

Activist Dies to Save the Planet

A noted LGBTQ-rights legal activist lit himself on fire in Prospect Park (Brooklyn) to highlight the human degradation of the planet. Before his death, David Buckel wrote, "Pollution ravages our planet, oozing inhabitability via air, soil, water and weather. Most humans on the planet now breathe air made unhealthy by fossil fuels, and many die early deaths as a result—my early death by fossil fuel reflects what we are doing to ourselves." Buckel was 60 years old and married to Terry Kaelber for 34 years. Before his environmental activism, Buckel led the Marriage Project at Lambda Legal and was the lead in a lawsuit about Brandon Teena, the transgender teen killed in 1993 after he told police he was raped. He also argued cases against the Boy Scouts' gay ban and Utah students trying to start a GSA at their school. Buckel was also the attorney in *Nabozny v. Podlesny* (1996): a judge ruled that schools must protect students from anti-LGBTQ abuse.



People Who Make a Difference

Almost 20,000 people signed petitions in opposition to Principal Jeff Roberts at Southwood High School (Schreveport, LA), who told 19-year-old trans student **Kami Pham** that her photo was cut from the yearbook because she wore “feminine attire” and a wig. He also told her that if she continued to wear the women’s clothing and wig that she could not walk at graduation. Pham’s friends told the principal that the school’s dress code did not prevent her from wearing this clothing and created the petitions.



One friend wrote that overturning Roberts’ decision was “not only a big win for Kami, but for all students who express themselves in their way for years to come.” Pham wore her preferred style of dress when she marched in the graduation procession. Roberts denied that he had ever threatened Pham.



Diedre Downs Gunn, Miss America 2005, married **Abbott Jones** (left). In 2008, Downs Gunn married Andrew Gunn. They had a son before they divorced. Her eight-year-old son and “Best Man” gave her away at the wedding. The couple met online and said it was love at first sight. Downs Gunn, also former Miss Alabama, is an obstetrician/gynecologist, and Jones is a lawyer. Two years ago, Miss Missouri, **Erin O’Flaherty** (left), broke Miss America ground by becoming the first open lesbian to compete in the pageant.



Nathan Etter (right) was reprimanded by Principal Daniel Schuth at the Prairie View Elementary School (Burlington, IL) because he answered a student’s question. Asked who had sent a vase of flowers, Etter said, “My husband.” About 100 students, parents, and faculty members attended a standing-room-only school board meeting in support of Etter, a music teacher. Some carried placards that read “We support Mr. Etter” and “Respect for all.” After the meeting, the school board president assured Etter that the district “had no further concerns and considered the matter resolved.” Philip Etter, Nathan’s husband, stands to the left of Nathan when he reads a statement to the school board.

PFLAG News

The Lincoln County Board of Commissions (BOC) proclaimed April 23-27 as Upstander Week in Lincoln County. The goal was to point out the harmful effects of bullying on both mental and physical health and the danger of suicide by bullied victims while encouraging people to increase their awareness and support for efforts to improve emotionally healthy and supportive school and community environments in Lincoln County.

NHS GSA president Cassidy Brown, PFLAG board member CM Hall, and Jeanne St. John updated BOC about LGBTQ safety in the schools and community.

GSA activities at NHS for April included plans for Upstander Week and Day of Silence plus the success of the project providing tickets to the movie *Love, Simon*.

PFLAG supported families and school staff for two elementary students who successfully transitioned genders during the past school year.

Media Matters:

Max Mutchnick, the producer and writer of *Will & Grace*, donated a copy of *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo*, about VP Mike Pence's gay rabbit, to all 1,121 public elementary schools in Mike Pence's home state of Indiana. Max Mutchnick (second from right) with his family.



OCC PFLAG Calendar

May 8, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

May 9, 6:00-8:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Yachats Pride—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

May 17-20: QDoc—Portland Queer Documentary Film Festival—<https://qdocfilmfest.org/>

May 21: 2018 GLSEN Respect Awards honoring champions of LGBTQ youth in K-12 schools—New York

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

June 1-3: Yachats Pride—<http://yachatspride.org/>

June 4: 30th Annual Lambda Literary Awards <https://www.lambdaliterary.org/awards/>

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.



The next children's LGBTQ book to hit the media is *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*, written by Rob Sanders and illustrated by Steven Salerno. Sanders was inspired by news coverage legalizing same-gender marriage nationwide in 2015—rainbows shining on Niagara Falls, the White House, indeed the "entire world," according to Sanders. The book covers Gilbert Baker, who created the rainbow pride flag in 1978 and social activist Harvey Milk.

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.

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