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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

November 2016

## Take Action

<http://aclu-or.org/content/stop-cruel-and-unusual-punishment-transgender-prisoners-oregon> **An ACLU petition invites people to join them in calling on the Oregon Department of Corrections to end their cruel policies and practices that deny life-saving care to transgender prisoners.**

The ACLU of Oregon has filed a federal lawsuit against the Oregon Department of Corrections for allegedly denying a transgender inmate essential medical care and exposing her to harassment. Michelle Wright has requested medical care, including hormone therapy, almost 100 times and repeatedly attempted suicide because of her treatment. All her requests have been denied or ignored. The 25-year-old woman, convicted for attempted armed robbery after her 2013 arrest, began identifying as a woman nine years ago; her earliest release date would be 2018. At least 12 other Oregon prisoners have been denied access to medical care.

In the past two months, similar lawsuits have been filed in Florida, Delaware, Missouri and Nebraska. The U.S. Department of Justice sided with a transgender prisoner in Georgia whose hormone treatment, which she had taken for 17 years, was eliminated. Federal officials stated that failure to provide appropriate medical care for inmates suffering from gender dysphoria violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

The annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) memorializes individuals who have died throughout the world in the previous year because of anti-transgender hatred. Each November, the worldwide transgender community turns its attention to family, friends, and loved ones lost to violence and prejudice.

This year, the OCC PFLAG monthly meeting will commemorate transgender people who have died and celebrate those who have survived.

**OCC PFLAG Meeting: November 9, 2016**

## PFLAG Makes a Difference; So Can You

Since two lesbian partners for over 20 years were evicted last month from their low-income apartment in Lincoln City, Ineka Estabrook, Debbie Spicer, and Jeanne St. John have worked tirelessly to find them funds and lodging. Homophobia led at least in part to severe bullying and negativity from the manager and several residents. The eviction of the women who both live on health-related disability resulted to a court hearing in which the manager and residents openly jeered. The severity of the case has caused Legal Aid and Oregon's BOLI (Bureau of Labor & Industries) to investigate, hopefully at least removing the eviction from their record.

Homeless, the women used their own disability income for food, gas, and occasional nights in a motel. For almost two weeks they stayed at South Beach State Park in a donated tent and kept food and medicine in a donated cooler. Ineka's pleas on Facebook brought in limited private donations, but their funds were drained by the time that they were able to find a living situation within their restricted budget.

One source that helped them was PFLAG's Emergency Housing fund, and the Central Oregon Coast NOW Foundation donated some of the proceeds from its recent Celebration of Women fundraiser to this fund. People who also want to assist can contact Ineka regarding donations to the PFLAG housing fund or other ways to help PFLAG with this philanthropic activity.

OCC PFLAG faced three other housing situations this year although the one above was the first case to reach this high level. Ineka has also been working with the Fair Housing Council of Oregon, a support group for people suffering from housing discrimination. The Council advocates for tenants, works with landlords, and gives instruction for following steps if compromises are not reached.

Federally protected classes include race, color, national origin, religion, gender, familial status, and disability. Oregon's protected classes add marital status, source of income, sexual orientation and gender identity, and domestic violence victims. These laws apply to a variety of housing from homes and apartments to retirement housing, adult foster homes and long-term care facilities, homeless shelters and other nonprofit housing, etc. In addition to rentals, the laws cover sales, mortgages, construction, home insurance, regulations and zoning, and neighbor-on-neighbor harassment.

Complaints can be reported to (503)223-8197, Ext. 2 or at [information@fhco.org](mailto:information@fhco.org).

People who want to fight housing discrimination are welcome to sign up as testers. Trained people are sent to places where someone has reported a concern about being denied housing. More information about participation in this program can be found at <http://fhco.org/about-us/get-involved/testing>.

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## Transgender performance artist Zackary Drucker Lists Her Ten Favorite Transgender Films

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/transgender-film-zackary-drucker\\_us\\_57ebba6e4b024a52d2b96f4?section=&section=us\\_queer-voices&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Queer%20Voices%20092916&utm\\_content=Queer%20Voices%20092916+CID\\_b3380cb055c612898e9911123bee6edc&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Film%20Festival](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/transgender-film-zackary-drucker_us_57ebba6e4b024a52d2b96f4?section=&section=us_queer-voices&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Queer%20Voices%20092916&utm_content=Queer%20Voices%20092916+CID_b3380cb055c612898e9911123bee6edc&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Film%20Festival)

# *Politics on Our Side*

**Alabama:** State Chief Justice Roy Moore has been suspended for telling probate judges to defy federal orders after the Supreme Court legalized marriage equality three years ago. The state nine-member Court of the Judiciary unanimously determined the suspension although only a majority wanted him actually removed from the court. Moore won't be running for reelection in 2019 because of his age, but he is appealing the ruling to the state Supreme Court.

Alabama is suffering from legal problems among its other top officials. Gov. Robert Bentley is facing impeachment, and the state House Speaker Mike Hubbard (R) has been sentenced to a four-year prison term on corruption charges.

**California:** A person has been recognized as having non-binary gender by the state's Superior Court, becoming the second person to gain this recognition after Jamie Shupe's victory in Oregon earlier this year.

**California:** Legislation recently passed limits on publicly funded travel to states that have laws restricting the rights of gay and transgender people and now blocks state agencies and universities from requiring their employees to travel to those states. Other legislation requires that all business and government single-stall toilets in the state be designated as gender neutral.

**Illinois:** U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Gilbert has recommended that U.S. Judge Jorge Alonso reject an attempt to keep female transgender students from using the girls' locker room at Palentine's William Fremd High School. Gilbert wrote: "High school students do not have a constitutional right not to share restrooms or locker rooms with transgender students whose sex assigned at birth is different than theirs. In

addition, sharing a restroom or locker room with a transgender student does not create a severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive hostile environment under Title IX given the privacy protections [the school district] has put in place in those facilities and the alternative facilities available to students who do not want to share a restroom or locker room with a transgender student."

In April, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that a **Virginia** school district acted within its authority in allowing a transgender boy to use the boys' bathroom. The Supreme Court stayed that ruling in August temporarily pending a decision on whether they will review the case. A lawsuit between the state of **North Carolina** and the U.S. Department of Justice regarding the state's restriction of bathroom and locker room use for transgender citizens has been pushed back to see whether the Supreme Court will rule on the case in Virginia.

**Massachusetts:** The state Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that an unmarried lesbian whose former female partner gave birth to two children through artificial insemination has the same parental rights as their biological mother. Karen Partanen is now a legal parent to the two children she raised with Julie Gallagher. The unanimous decision occurred in the same court that initially legalized same-gender marriage in 2003.

At least 35 states confer parent status on spouses who consent to assisted reproductive technology, as Partanen did. Seven of those states and the District of Columbia give legal parentage to the person who consents to the procedure with the intent to parent the resulting child, without regard to marital status, according to fertility associations and attorneys who submitted written arguments supporting Partanen.

## PFLAG Secretary Dawna McLain

China hopes to dominate with sheer numbers, hopefully 100 team members, in the **2018 Gay Games, scheduled in Paris.** Qiu Hua first learned about the annual games at a badminton club in 2014 and has been promoting them in China ever since.

The country's first Gay Games medal went to a Chinese athlete who took home a silver medal for swimming in 2014. Because LGBT people lack legal recognition and protections in China, LGBT athletic clubs and teams are hard to find, especially because government agencies censor media with LGBT content. Only 5 percent of the LGBT community is out at work or school.

Qiu said that Hong Kong wants to host the 2022 Gay Games, the first possibility that the games would take place in Asia.

The Human Rights Campaign has a new **support guide for parents, allies and doctors of transgender children** that provides concrete and easy to understand explanations of gender identity, fluidity, exploration, and differences from sexual orientation.

People looking for useful information should realize that the American College of Pediatricians or ACP is considered an extremist hate group by the respected Southern Poverty Law Center. The group to be relied on uses "academy" in its name: the American Academy of Pediatrics.

<http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com//files/documents/SupportingCaringforTransChildren.pdf>



"I've lived in Newport since I was 7 so I've basically grown up here. In 2003 my first child was born, and shortly after that my life shifted and I became a stay-at-home mom. When my youngest of four was old enough to start school, I started volunteering in the schools. Soon after that I went back to work.

"When my eldest was 12 she came out to me as bi which marked the beginning of our involvement with PFLAG."

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**The only difference between same-gender and different-gender parenting is stress**, according to a new study from the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law. Even the stress, however, didn't result in less favorable outcomes for the children.

# Lots More Politics on Our Side!

**New York:** Virginia resident Philip Zodhiates has been convicted of international parental kidnapping and conspiracy for helping Lisa Miller flee the country in 2010 with her then 7-year-old daughter in order to avoid a court order giving custody of the child to her former partner, Janet Jenkins. Miller is still a fugitive.

**North Carolina:** The liberals made me do it! That's what Gov. Pat McCrory said. His reason? Charlotte (NC) passed a non-discrimination policy. "The left brought this issue up, not the right," he said. More sports have left the state after the Colonial Athletic Association announced it will pull its women's golf championship from North Carolina unless a state law that discriminates against LGBT people is repealed or voided by January 10. The league has issued a statement announcing its plan to possibly move the neutral-site tournament, scheduled for April 14-16 in Southport, North Carolina.

**Ohio:** A federal judge has ordered the Highland Local Schools in Morrow County to treat a female transgender student "like the girl she is." Judge Algenon Marbley rejected the school district's argument that giving her access to the girls' restroom would jeopardize other students' privacy or safety.

**United States:** Because of a new military policy, insurance will cover private counseling and health services hormones for military retirees and children of active members in the military. Gender confirmation surgery, however, is covered only for active-duty personnel and not for retirees and dependents.

**United States:** Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA) has introduced the Don't Block LGBTQ Act to ensure LGBTQ resources aren't blocked at public schools and libraries because of mandatory internet filtering. Public schools and libraries using the e-Rate program must filter out obscene content, child pornography, and "content harmful to minors"; Honda's act would permit useful LGBTQ resources without modifying other filters.

**United States:** "LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History" is a new National Park Service (NPS) study identifying places and events associated with the history of LGBTQ-identified Americans. Part of the NPS Heritage Initiative, it chronicles historical places, documents, people and events that have shaped the American LGBTQ civil rights movement. The project is available here: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/lgbtqthemestudy.htm>

**France:** Lawmakers have removed a law requiring transgender people to undergo "sterilization" in order to have their gender legally recognized, making France the fourth European nation to do this. Transgender people must still petition the court in France, however, unlike in Denmark, Malta, and Ireland. Over 20 other European countries still require medical procedures before legally recognizing gender changes.

**Italy:** In May, the country joined the rest of Europe in giving some legal rights to same-gender couples. Italy was the last of the European Union's 28 nations to provide many marriage rights through civil unions although same-gender couples cannot adopt children. The Vatican was extremely upset about Italy's action, probably more so now that two ex-nuns joined together in a civil union after they fell in love at a convent and renounced their vows.

**United Nations:** The U.N. Human Rights Council has appointed its first independent investigator to help protect LGBT people from violence and discrimination.

# People Who Make a Difference



The Texas First Court of Appeals now has one Democrat. Justice **Terry Jennings** officiated a same-gender marriage and then quit the Republican party, saying “my party left me.”

**Edie Windsor**, the hero of the *Windsor v. U.S.* Supreme

Court Case legalizing marriage equality rights in 2013, has married **Judith Kasen** (right), a 51-year-old VP at Wells Fargo Advisors. The 87-year-old lost her long-time partner, Thea Spyer, eight years ago after they legally married in Toronto in 2007. Spyer’s death became the basis for Windsor’s lawsuit after Windsor was charged \$363,000 in taxes because her marriage wasn’t recognized in New York. Good for you, Edie!



OCC PFLAG member **Rhonda Jantzen** (left) with Oregon governor, Kate Brown, in a photo posted on Jantzen’s Facebook page.

**A 12-year-old boy** faced down 11,000 people in Celaya who were protesting the proposed same-gender marriage law in Mexico. He said, “I have an uncle who is gay. And I hate that people hate.”



After 75 years, **Wonder Woman** has come out of the closet as bisexual. Writer Greg Rucka said that it was only natural that Wonder Woman be queer because her island home, Themyscira, is inhabited only by women, which can be interpreted by some as a “queer culture.” The UN also appointed Wonder Woman its honorary ambassador for the empowerment of women and girls.

## OCC PFLAG Activities

The LGBT Task Force meeting on October 5 discussed the Partnership Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (PAADA) leadership conference in November; the GSA's leadership conference; rules surrounding a boy's attempt to join the volleyball team; hiring of new people in Lincoln County's mental health department; a couple who was evicted from their Lincoln City apartment; housing discrimination issues; and church issues.

The Newport High School "lunch bunch" has started with Reatha Ryan as the guest counselor.

Attending the Task Force meeting were Jeanne St. John and Ineka Estabrook (PFLAG); Reatha Ryan; Susan Van Liew (LCSD administrator); Barbara Turrill (LCHHS Behavioral Health Division Director); Don McDonald (PAADA); and Liz Jones and Ardis Letey (Welcoming Churches).

The PFLAG Board met on October 13 with its new secretary, Dawna McLain (see p. 4). Discussion items about housing discrimination concerned the evicted couple and another trans person having difficulty at a Siletz RV park. Other discussion items: a possible GSA at Newport Middle School. PFLAG hopes to get the AIDS Quilt for OCC for World Aids Day.

The Equity Foundation is so pleased with the OCC PFLAG grant and hard work that they gave an additional \$500 which paid for the Gender Odyssey trip.

With former LGBTQ and Trans panel presenters moved away or unavailable, Ineka is training a new group, many of them gender queer or transgender. They will make their maiden voyage with a presentation to Chloe' Ruffin's Leadership Class later this fall.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

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

**November 9, 6:00-7:30 pm:** PFLAG Meeting, Commemoration of Transgender Day of Remembrance—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**November 12, 7:00-10:00 pm:** LGBTQ Social for teens and young adults. 634 NE 7th Street, Newport (More information: (541)272-7817 or (541) 829-9049. [Date is tentative; please call to confirm.]

**November 27, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Coast Women's Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

### December 1: World AIDS Day

**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](mailto:pflag-occ@gmail.com) for an application.**

NOW would like to thank PFLAG for hosting a table at the third annual Central Oregon Coast NOW Celebration of Women on October 9 and Ineka Estabrook's help in setting up the major fundraising event for the Central Oregon Coast NOW Foundation!

Please send information about experiences with the local law enforcement to Ineka Estabrook at [inekae@gmail.com](mailto:inekae@gmail.com). OCC PFLAG is following up on a complaint registered with the Newport Police Department.

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

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

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

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