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Parents, Families and
Friends of Lesbians and
Gays promotes the
health and well- being
of gay, lesbian, bisex-
ual, and trans-gendered
persons, their families,
and their friends
through

SUPPORT to cope with
an adverse society

EDUCATION to
enlighten an ill-
informed public

ADVOCACY to end dis-
crimination and secure
equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

February 2015

Take Action

The 114th Congress started with the introduction of bills called Respect for Marriage Act in both the House and Senate. The proposed bills would repeal the federal Defense of Marriage Act and give all legally-married same sex couples access to federal benefits no matter where they live in the nation. Senator Dianne Feinstein of California said that this Congress must "ensure that married, same-sex couples are treated equally under federal law". [At least 77 representatives and 41 senators have co-sponsored the legislation.

Initially three of the four Democrats from Oregon were on the list of co-sponsors; Rep. Kurt Schrader was not. You can write him here and request that he co-sponsor the bill. <http://schrader.house.gov/contact/>

As a proud LGBT activist and past librarian, I want to tout the achievements of two LGBT librarians, Kyle Luckoff and Talya Sokoll, who were featured in this story about helping the Ferguson (MO) library: http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/watch/librarians-volunteer-to-help-out-in-ferguson-376628291872?cid=eml_mra_20141224

See Pride at the Newport PAC February 8-9, 7:00 pm

Pride, the movie about U.K. lesbian and gay activists helping striking Welsh miners in 1984, will be shown at the Newport Performing Arts Center on February 8-9 at 7:00 pm. Based on a true story, this "feel good" film was shown at the Bijou in Lincoln City last year. If you missed it, catch it this month at the PAC. If you saw it there, you'll want to see it again!

In an odd side story, the movie about lesbian and gay activists has been released on DVD in the U.S.—with no reference to LGBT people on the cover.

Bully Prevention & LGBT 101 at Eddyville School



Newport High GSA students McKenzie Figuracion and Mia Estabrook joined PFLAG co-chairs Ineka Estabrook and Jeanne St. John to present a “mash-up” of Bully Basics and LGBT 101 to the middle and high school students and to the secondary staff at Eddyville Charter School.

The students and staff had been affected by the recent suicide of a student in their area. The school has requested regular consultation and training from the Youth Leadership Academy

led by PAADA, PFLAG, and Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution. Eddyville students were very appreciative of the GSA and PFLAG presentations and are hoping to start a GSA or Upstander Club at Eddyville. [Above Figuracion (left) and Estabrook at last year’s Love Is Love celebration]

Upcoming Events for the Local PFLAG Group

Upstander Week Proclamation, February 4

PFLAG Co-Chairs Jeanne St. John and Ineka Estabrook will lead a presentation to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, February 4 at 9:30 am regarding the national Bully Prevention effort. The commissioners will hear about the great success of the Olweus Bully Prevention program at Newport Intermediate School and plans for their Upstander Week on February 9-13.

Students from the Intermediate School, INMS, and Newport High will describe their experiences with bullying and with preventing bullying at their schools. Raising the awareness of this issue and knowing that major changes are possible in a short time will help this district improve student safety, school climate, and student learning.

PFLAG members and allies are invited and encouraged to join the school students and staff at this Upstander Proclamation ceremony.

OUT on the Oregon Coast does Happy Hour

Happy Hour with a mixed group of LGBT friends—old and new—is new to the Oregon Coast. We gather at Georgie’s for adult beverages and tasty Happy Hour menu treats and to get acquainted with newcomers to the community. Don’t miss the next gathering on Tuesday, February 10 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Georgie’s Lounge in Newport. Invite a friend and let’s have a good time socializing together! All LGBT friends and allies are welcome!

Valentine’s Day Happy Hour at Embarcadero

Join your LGBT friends at the Embarcadero Lounge at 5:00 pm on Saturday, February 14. This special event is planned and hosted by Out on the Oregon Coast.

Politics on Our Side

Chicago: The City Council has added trans people in its expansion of an existing city ordinance prohibiting police profiling based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability, military discharge, marital, financial or parental status by including gender identity and national origin.

California: Large electric, gas, water, wireless, and telecom companies in the state are now required to report how much they spend with LGBT contractors. A law in California that took effect January 1 seeks to help certified businesses with LGBT ownership. The law's intent is to help LGBT-owned businesses compete in winning contracts with utilities.

United States: Attorney General Eric Holder announced that the Justice Department will support marriage equality in the marriage equality case that the Supreme Court hears in April.



United States: Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and his wife Lilibet included an image of submariner MM2 2nd Class Jerrel Revels' 2013 proposal to his boyfriend, Dylan Kirchner, among images of military families in a Christmas video to defense personnel. It is the first time that an LGBT couple has been shown in the holiday video from any U.S. Secretary of Defense.

Chile: The House of Representatives approved a bill by an 86-23 vote margin that would permit civil unions for same-sex couples. The Senate also passed the bill, and President Michelle Bachelet said she will sign the civil unions bill into law. Chilean advocates still seek marriage equality rights. Chile will be the seventh country in South America to legalize same-sex civil unions.

Luxembourg: This country has joined neighboring France and Belgium to legalize same-sex marriage. Scotland also has legalized marriage equality. Two men in their 60s on Thursday became the first same-sex couple to legally marry in Luxembourg.

UK: Queen Elizabeth II bestowed honors on four LGBT rights campaigners in her New Year Honours list: Eighty-year-old Jenny Broughton, co-founder of Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (FFLAG), was given an MBE as was Nigel George Warner for his services to the international movement for lesbian and gay rights. Honored with an OBE was Dr. Jay Stewart, co-founder of Gendered Intelligence, who was honored for his service to the transgender community. and chairs the Board of Directors. Dr Stewart was honored for his service to the transgender community; Jenny-Anne Christine Bishop was also honored with an OBE for services to the trans community. The queen also bestowed a Damehood on Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, who became the first lesbian holder of the post in 2009.

Vietnam: Although a measure repealing the country's ban on same-sex marriage took effect, current law keeps same-sex couples from legal certification of benefits associated with civil marriage. The measure does allow symbolic weddings and cohabitation for same-sex couples.

LGBT children, parents, and allies are joining in **an organization called One Million Kids** to support the LGBT community. Its launch on January 22 was one day after the conservative anti-LGBT group One Million Moms announced One Million Dads “to disciple their family, church, and country.” More information about One Million Kids at <http://onemillionkids.org/>

GLAAD has announced 144 nominees in 31 English and Spanish language categories for the awards presented in Los Angeles on March 21 and New York on May 9. The list is available here: <http://www.glaad.org/mediaawards/nominees>

Ellen DeGeneres, TV’s first openly LGBT star, is producing a new sit com featuring a pregnant lesbian who has formed a family with the father, a straight man who falls in love with another woman. The first of six NBC episodes will appear on March 17.

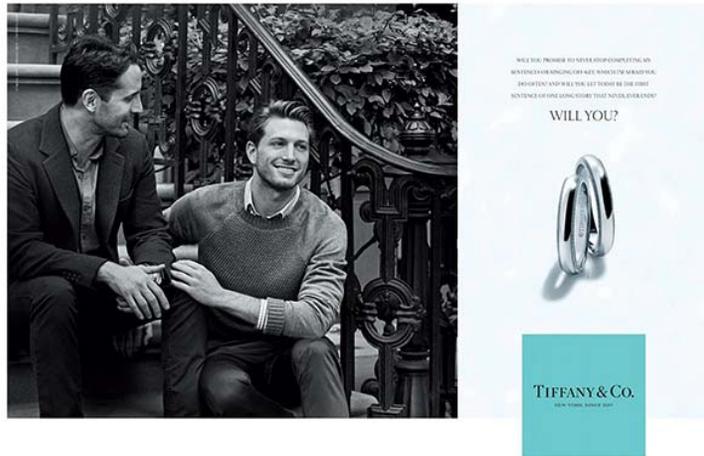
TV star **Michelle Duggar**, bearer of 19 children and full of hate for the LGBT community, has a **lesbian sister**, 63-year-old Evelyn Ruark. She has been in a long-term relationship with 52-year-old Sharon Callahan. Although Ruark appeared on an early Duggars’ show, *19 Kids and Counting*, nothing was said about her being a lesbian. Michelle’s son Josh, executive director of the anti-LGBT Research Council, said that Ruark is against marriage equality, but she has been estranged from her sister’s family for several years.

Love the Photos!



Eight New York drag queens held a “Wig Off,” each auctioning off a handmade wig to support at-risk and homeless LGBT youth at the Ali Forney Center. For more magnificent photos by Santiago Felipe, go to http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/01/22/wig-off-ali-forney-center_n_6523858.html?ncid=newsltushpmsg00000003

Tiffany’s first ever same-sex advertisement!



A new survey about professional athletics shows how LGBT people are gaining ground. Seventy-three percent of the respondents said they would support a team that signed a gay or lesbian athlete, compared to only 19 percent who disagreed. Jason Collins is the only openly gay athlete who has played a game in one of the four major U.S. men’s sports leagues.

Supreme Court Takes on Marriage Equality

Marriage equality is still moving forward as the Supreme Court agreed to hear four cases in the last ten days of April. The tipping point came from the 6th Circuit Court ruling against marriage equality for the states Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee. Their ruling went back to the 1972 case of *Baker v. Nelson* allowing states to limit marriages to heterosexual couples.

The high court will concentrate on 14th Amendment rights. Lawyers are limited to arguments about specific issues raised in taking cases to the court, but they may try to fit in such problems as bans interfering with the constitutional right to travel.

Four circuit courts have decided in favor of marriage equality: two of them used the 14th Amendment constitutional due-process clause, and the other two based the ruling on the equal-protection clause. Justice Kennedy may want to avoid the due-process because Justice Scalia could use it as a protection for polygamy and incest. The key element in the *Windsor* decision was that the law was driven by animus.

Rulings in January 2015: **Alabama**—If neither the 11th Circuit Court nor the Supreme Court delay same-sex marriages, marriage equality in the 37th state will start on February 9; **Kentucky**—judge approved the first same-sex divorce in that state; **Michigan**—A federal judge ruled that couples marrying after the state's ban was struck down and before the 6th Circuit Court ruling against it have valid marriages; **Nevada and Idaho**— The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused to reconsider its ruling overturning the states' marriage equality ban; **South Dakota**—A federal judge overturned the state's ban on marriage equality but stayed the ruling, pending an appeal or a Supreme Court decision.

Announcements can come using cakes, mugs, billboards, or even the sky. Becca Owen and her wife used T-shirts to make their baby announcement on a photo titled "Coming in July 2015" and a caption that read, "A nontraditional baby announcement for a nontraditional family." When people asked how they determined the bio mother, Meg said, "We measured our hips and she won." [Photo by Alec Mills]



More than 70% of American citizens live in a state that allows same-sex marriage. Before the Supreme Court's decision in *U.S. v. Windsor*, only 13 states and Washington, D.C., permitted the practice.

President Sets Precedence in SOTU Speech; Talks about Protections for LGBT People

For the first time in the history of the United States, a president has talked about LGBT protections in a State of the Union speech. "As Americans, we respect human dignity That's why we ... condemn the persecution of women, or religious minorities, or people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. We do these things not only because they're right, but because they make us safer."

Barack Obama is also the first president to mention transgender people in public speeches. In addition, his past actions have made it illegal to fire or harass employees of federal contractors based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and banned discrimination against transgender employees of the federal government.

People Who Make a Difference



Alabama's only openly LGBT legislator, state Rep. **Patricia Todd**, posted a message on her Facebook page that she would make their marital infidelities public if they use family values rhetoric to oppose marriage equality. Some elected officials used this excuse to oppose a federal judge's ruling against the state ban on same-sex marriage. "Don't start throwing bricks at my window when yours is already cracked as well," Todd said.

State House Speaker Mike Hubbard had declared that "we will continue defending the Christian conservative values that make Alabama a special place to live."

When a Catholic priest, **Father Martin Dolan**, came out in front of his congregation in Ireland, he received a standing ovation from his parishioners. "We are all very proud of Father Martin. Because he has admitted that he is gay he doesn't change the person that he was before it," community youth worker Liz O'Connor said. Nearly 70 percent of people in Ireland support marriage equality.



Ireland's Minister for Health, **Leo Varadkar**, has come out as gay before the country votes on marriage equality in a few months. He said he came out now because he didn't want to be seen as having a "hidden agenda" ahead of potential ministerial decisions on marriage and the gay blood ban. "I won't be allowing my own background or sexual orientation to dictate the decisions that I make," Varadkar stated.



Madhu Kinnar is the first elected trans mayor of a city in India. An independent candidate, she received 4,500 more votes than her opponent of the popular Bharatiya Janata Party in Raigarh, a city of 300,000 in the state of Chhattisgarh. Nine months earlier, the Indian Supreme Court declared transgender people, known as hijras, as a legal third gender in a ruling that legally recognized the identities of an estimated two million people in the nation.

Love Is Love Valentine Party

Save the afternoon of February 8 and plan to bring your families and friends to this best-ever Valentine Party for young and old, gay and straight!

This year's party will again feature the romantic music by Past Forward, great for listening and especially for dancing! This great band and vocalist provided wonderful entertainment for last year's Love is Love Party and they're coming back!

There will be a table for making your own Valentine cards, a photographer for Sweetheart and/or Family photos, celebrations of marriages during the last year, and fun for all ages.

Bakers from the area's Welcoming Churches will prepare the desserts with love and support for the LGBT community. Don't miss this delightful annual event!

Meeting Features Alan Turing Film

The program for the regular February PFLAG meeting will include the showing of the second half of a documentary on the extraordinary and tragic life of brilliant scientist Alan Turing.

Often credited with being instrumental in winning WWII by breaking the German's Enigma code, he has been called the father of computer science and artificial intelligence.

Although the maverick British genius was one of the most important scientists in history, he's been almost unknown. And instead of receiving accolades and awards from the British government, he endured terrible persecution.

In 1952 the British government forced him to undergo chemical castration for his homosexuality, leading to his suicide when he was only 41 years old.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

February 4, 9:30 am: Upstander Week Proclamation at Lincoln County Board of Commissioners Meeting—County Courthouse, Newport

February 8, 2:00-4:00 pm: Love Is Love Valentine Party—OCCC

February 8-9, 7:00 pm: Showing of movie *Pride*—Performing Arts Center, Newport

February 10, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ/Out Oregon Coast Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's, Newport

February 11, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting: Alan Turing Video—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

February 14, 5:00-7:00 pm: Valentine Happy Hour—Embarcadero Lounge, Newport

February, 17, 7:00 pm: CAN Pizza—Abby's, Newport

February 22, 11:00 am: Women's Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, Newport

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

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

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

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.

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

The Mormon leadership may be evolving—a little. Senior leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints now support legislation to protect LGBT people from discrimination. Its caveat is that it wants members of the church to have religious exemptions from any laws preventing discrimination against LGBT people including housing, employment, and public lodging.

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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