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Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, 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 discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

# Oregon Central Coast Chapter

February 2016

## Take Action

High school senior Brooke Wakeman has a petition asking Google to change its definition of marriage as “the legally or formally recognized union of a man and a woman (or, in some jurisdictions, two people of the same sex) as partners in a relationship.” Wakeman writes, “The current definition ignores people who are genderfluid and people who do not conform to a gender at all. Google’s definition also positions heterosexual marriage above homosexual marriage. She proposes that Google define marriage as: “The legal or formally recognized union between two consenting adults as partners in a relationship, which may be based around love and commitment.” [https://www.google.com/search?q=marriage+definition+google&oq=marriage+definition+google&aqs=chrome..69i57j0j69i64j69i61l2.8248j1j4&sourceid=chrome&es\\_sm=93&ie=UTF-8#q=marriage+definition+](https://www.google.com/search?q=marriage+definition+google&oq=marriage+definition+google&aqs=chrome..69i57j0j69i64j69i61l2.8248j1j4&sourceid=chrome&es_sm=93&ie=UTF-8#q=marriage+definition+)

Celebrate President Obama’s SOTU: p. 4, top left!



Love

February 13, 2:00-4:00

**Love Is Love**

OCCC, 400 SE College Way,  
South Beach

(See p. 7)

# The Next Fight for LGBT People Following Marriage Equality

A CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS GRAPHIC

## Victory at the Supreme Court!

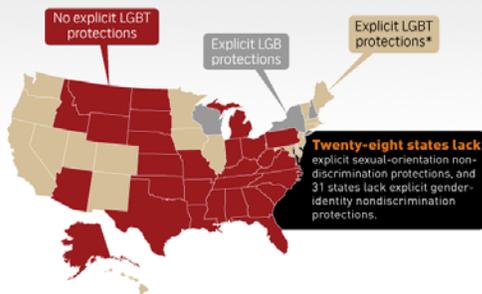
Marriage equality is the law of the land nationwide!



You decide to get legally married on Sunday.

- THAT NIGHT** ▶ **You are legally denied a hotel room** for your honeymoon because of your sexual orientation.
- MONDAY** ▶ **You are legally fired** for being gay when you try to update your employment forms to reflect that you are married.
- TUESDAY** ▶ **You are legally evicted from your apartment** when you try to add your new spouse to the lease.
- WEDNESDAY** ▶ **You are legally denied a loan** because you are married to a person of the same gender.
- THURSDAY** ▶ **Your child is legally expelled from college** when you notify the school of a new legal parent.
- FRIDAY** ▶ **You file a complaint** but learn that you may not be protected from the discrimination you have faced.

**While you now have a marriage license, too many people still have a license to discriminate.**



All Americans deserve the ability to provide for their families and to live free from fear.

Anti-LGBT discrimination is a national problem that needs a national solution.

**It is time for Congress to pass a comprehensive nondiscrimination act.**

For more information, read the Center for American Progress report "We the People" at <http://ampr.gs/wethepeople>.

\* Massachusetts lacks gender-identity protections in public accommodations. Utah lacks sexual-orientation and gender-identity protections in public accommodations. Source: Movement Advancement Project, "Non-Discrimination Laws: Employment Equality Map," available at [http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/non\\_discrimination\\_laws](http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/non_discrimination_laws) (last accessed January 2015).

Center for American Progress

Following the success of *Obergefell v. United States* granting legalized marriage equality in June 2015, thousands of same-gender couples married, hoping that their relationship would be legal both in their states of residence and throughout the entire United States. No matter how individual states struggled to block these marriages after the Supreme Court ruling, they all failed.

Unfortunately, several states still block some benefits of marriage such as adoption, but courts will be forced to change these laws, based on the Supreme Court's decision.

LGBT rights in other areas, however, leave LGBT people unable to feel secure in jobs, housing, lodging, financial situations, colleges, and other areas that have no protections for LGBT people in many states.

After almost a year of enjoying the marriage equality success, it's time to move forward into other LGBT rights as shown by the graphic on the left.

## SCOTUS Justice 'Newsmaker of the Year'

One person who learned to understand LGBT rights is Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. Chosen by President Ronald Reagan 27 years ago to uphold the right-wing orthodoxy on the highest court, Kennedy has become a forceful advocate for LGBT rights on the same court. He has taken the lead in writing opinions to strike down sodomy laws, anti-LGBT ballot measures, and bans on marriage equality. For those reasons, readers of *LGBTQ Nation* have chosen Kennedy as the "Newsmaker of the Year" out of ten candidates. He was selected on the basis of making the greatest strides toward LGBTQ freedom. Kennedy was also voted Queerty's 2015 "Person of the Year."

Many people credit Kennedy's positions to his mentoring by a closeted gay man, Gordon Schraber, who recruited the young Irish-Catholic lawyer to teach at the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento.

Thanks to the Center for American Progress for the graphic on the left:

<http://thinkprogress.org/progress-report/discrimination-beyond-marriage/>

# *Politics on Our Side*

**Iowa:** Benjamin Flickinger, an investigator with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, determined that a former Iowa women's field hockey coach, Tracey Griesbaum, has a "reasonable possibility" of proving that gender or anti-gay discrimination played a role in athletic director Gary Barta's firing her in 2014. Flickinger recommended further investigation. The university claimed that she was fired because of how she treated players, but many students differed and were outraged over her abrupt termination. The case could take on the systemic inequality that women in athletics face with the double standard between male and female coaches, supposedly equal under Title IX.

**Kentucky:** The state will have to pay \$1.1 million to attorneys who defended marriage equality case that went to the Supreme Court, according U.S. District Judge John Heyburn. Although AG Jack Conway had refused to appeal the lower case, former Gov. Steve Beshear, who lost a recent election to Matt Bevin, brought the suit. Bevin's general counsel is reviewing the ruling.

**New Jersey:** State Superior Court Judge Peter F. Bariso, Jr. has closed down ex-gay therapy, Jews Offering New Alternatives for Healing (JONAH), after it was determined JONAH committed consumer fraud by promising to change people's sexuality with unproven techniques and unverifiable success claims. The order also prohibits founder Arthur Goldberg and other staff from participating in any form of business surrounding conversion therapy within New Jersey. Participants were encouraged to blame their parents for their homosexuality, told to beat dolls meant to represent their mothers, and subjected to ridicule such as being called "faggots" in mock gym class role-playing. Subjects were also made to undress in front of a mirror and in group

therapy with the naked therapist standing in the middle of the circle. JONAH is barred from appealing the trial ruling. The state has a ban on anti-LGBT therapy for minors but not for adults.

**New Mexico:** U.S. District Judge M. Christina Armijo has dismissed a lawsuit from University of New Mexico student Monica Pompeo who alleged that professors ostracized her because of anti-LGBT statements made in an assignment, a film review. Monica Pompeo called lesbianism as "perverse" in her critique of a lesbian romance film. Despite Pompeo's statement that she was denied her First Amendment rights, investigation showed that she was given several chances to rewrite her essay to adhere to academic standards or take alternative academic routes to achieve her class grade. The professors had explained that the critique was not an opinion paper and needed substantiation in accordance with academic standards in her "critical and analytic paper." Pompeo responded, "I don't like to be told what words I may and may not use, ever." She has appealed to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals with a hearing set in 2016.

**New York:** Businesses cannot discriminate based on sexual orientation, according to a unanimous ruling from the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court. After Liberty Ridge Farm refused to permit the marriage of Melisa and Jennifer McCarthy because they are lesbians, the state Division of Human Rights ruled in 2014 that public businesses cannot discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, national origin, or other protected classes. Liberty Ridge appealed the decision, and the state Supreme Court upheld the state's decision banning discrimination.

[More news on p. 5]

## President Celebrates LGBT In State of the Union Speech

"It's that spirit that ... secured the freedom in every state to marry the person we love. It's the son who finds the courage to come out as who he is, and the father whose love for that son overrides everything he's been taught." - President Obama in his State of the Union speech on January 12, 2016

## Recommended LGBT Books

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association has released its lists of recommended current books for young people and for adults as well as the Stonewall awards and honor books—the best of the best. Links to these lists:

Over the Rainbow Adult Books:  
<http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/overtherainbow/archives/546>

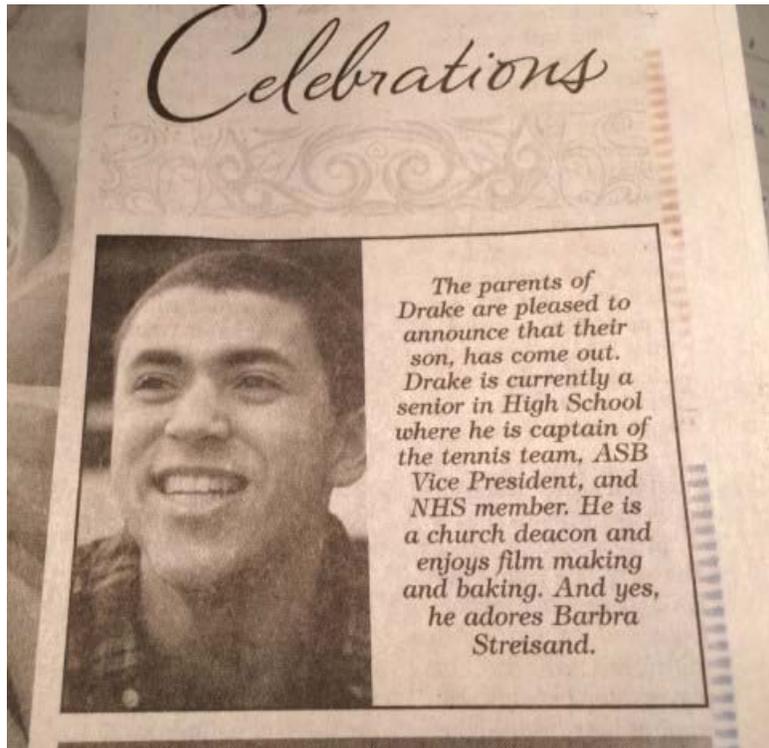
Rainbow Books for Youth:  
<http://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/archives/1207>

Stonewall Books for Adults/ Youth:  
<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2016/01/2016-stonewall-book-awards-announced>

## DeGeneres Wins Award

Ellen DeGeneres has been recognized as the Favorite Humanitarian by People's Choice Awards. She is giving the \$200,000 award to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## Mother Protests Houston Discrimination



After Houston repealed its equal rights ordinance for LGBT people, a mother took out a \$200 ad in the Houston Chronicle to celebrate her son's coming out. Joan Wilson's son, 17-year-old Drake Wilson, is a senior at Snohomish (WA) High School and came out to his mother almost two years ago. Wilson's ad reads:

"The parents of Drake are pleased to announce that their son has come out. Drake is currently a senior in High School where he is captain of the tennis team, ASB (Associated Student Body) Vice President and NHS (National Honor Society) member. He is a church deacon and enjoys film making and baking. And yes, he adores Barbra Streisand."

"We are blessed to live in a state which has passed anti-discrimination laws," Wilson said. "As a mother, I have much trepidation in thinking my son might one day live in a state such as Texas." Following Drake's coming out, his mother

launched The Society of Lucky Mothers, a group that celebrates LGBT children. [Joan Wilson, second from right marching with Drake in Seattle's Pride parade]



# Good News from around the World

**United States:** Congress has “dismantled” its ban on federal funding for needle exchanges, begun in 1988, in response to a massive HIV/AIDS outbreak in Indiana and state decisions in Kentucky and West Virginia to implement exchanges to combat heroin use. A ban on funding for new syringes is still in effect, but all other aspects of needle exchange are applicable. Syringes are relatively inexpensive and can be managed by individual states.

**China:** A gay man is suing to marry in China for the first time. Homosexuality is not illegal in China, but same-gender marriage is. Same-gender couples have no legal protections. In 2001, the country stopped classifying homosexuality as a mental disorder.

**Greece:** Greece’s parliament has overwhelmingly approved legislation legalizing civil partnerships for gay couples, two years after the country was condemned by a European human rights court for discrimination. After Greece legalized marriage equality in December, high ranking Greek Orthodox bishops said that LGBT people should be spit on and beaten. In contrast, Chrysostomos Savvatos (far right), the metropolitan bishop of Messinia, declared that LGBT people “like all humans, are a creation of God and they deserve the same respect and honor, and not violence and rejection.” His diocese, one of 12, covers most of southern Greece.



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The increasing openness within the past decade has resulted in increasingly fluid sexualities. Now a new BBC study finds that exclusively heterosexual women don’t exist. Many women who identify as heterosexual are likely, at least marginally, actually bisexual. The study from Dr. Gerulf Rieger, University of Essex, was published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and included 345 women. Only 28 percent of straight women experienced sexual arousal when looking at the gender they consider themselves to be exclusively attracted to compared to 68 percent of lesbians doing the same. The study didn’t rely on the honesty of responses; it used physiological sexual response for its findings. Readers of the study might find the results amazing because straight women aren’t as straight as they think, but Rieger was surprised because the reverse is not true of lesbians. She concluded that women who identify as lesbian are much more likely to have a fixed sexuality than those who identify as straight.

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Imaging studies suggest that transgender identity has a biological basis. Using MRIs of 24 female-to-males and 18 male-to-females, Spanish investigators found that even before treatment the brain structures of trans people were more similar to the brains of their experienced gender than those of their natal gender. FtM subjects had thin subcortical areas, typically thinner in men, and MtF subjects had thinner cortical regions in the right hemisphere, characteristic of a female brain. These differences became even more pronounced after treatment. In a 2014 study, MRIs showing responses in the hypothalamus to a pheromonelike properties were similar to those of the experienced gender. It’s not proof, but it’s an interesting beginning in exploring physiological differences resulting in gender identity.

# People Who Make a Difference



**Eric Fanning**, nominee for Secretary of the Army and acting Secretary, got closer to a Senate vote when Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) set a confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee. If confirmed, he would be the first openly gay person to fill the post. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KA), however, has promised to place a hold on the nomination until the White House promises none of the terror suspects imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay will be transferred to Fort Leavenworth. One senator has the power to keep a nominee from an up-or-down vote.

The National Catholic Reporter has named two of the plaintiffs in *Obergefell v. Hodges* as its "persons of the year." According to the publication's editorial, "[**Greg**] **Bourke** (far right) and [**Michael**] **DeLeon** are emblematic of this major challenge facing the church today, because they force us to ask not how will we live out a hypothetical situation, but how will we live with Greg and Michael. They give flesh to an abstraction." The couple has been together for 33 years and active in Our Lady of Lourdes for almost 30 years. Last year's person of the year was Pope Francis.



The board of Dallas School District is still in a quandary about whether transgender **Elliot Yoder** will be permitted to use the boys' restroom, as befitting his gender preference. On January 19, 2016, a lawyer explained in a board meeting why they should. Salem-based Garrett Hemann Robertson said that they will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars, both as a district and as individuals, to stop Yoder from using the boys' restroom and that they would lose. Attorney Paul Dakopolos said, "There is real liability in not following the law."

Some people started protesting after the 14-year-old started using the boys' locker room in November. Students objecting are permitted to dress elsewhere or have their schedules changed. Dakopolos also told parents that they could sue the district if they opposed the board's decision. "All you need is about a \$500 filing fee," he said, adding that they would lose. Yoder deserves a medal for standing up to the ignorance demonstrated by some people in his community. (More at <http://www.transstudent.org/dallas>)

## PFLAG Workshop Provides Help for Healthcare Workers

PFLAG is holding a workshop, “LGBT+ 101 Medical,” free to the public, on February 1. (See calendar.) Subtitled “Everything You Wanted to Know, But Didn’t Know Who to Ask for Healthcare Workers,” the focus is on basics of sexual orientation and gender identity especially for LGBT+ patients’ special needs. Transgender Neola Young, consultant from Portland, will give the presentation on how to make healthcare more LGBT welcoming and inclusive.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**February 1, 6:00-8:00 pm:** LGBT+ 101—Center for Health Education, 7th Street & Highway 101, Newport

**February 9, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie’s Beachside Grill, Newport

**February 13, 2:00-4:00:** Love Is Love, OCCC, 400 SE College Way, South Beach



Donations will support PFLAG’s programs for LGBT youth. Call 541-265-7194 for more information or to be identified as newlyweds.

**February 28, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Coast Women’s Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

## Love Is Love

Volunteers will transform the South Beach OCCC lobby into a romantic Hearts and Flowers setting for this Valentine party.

Local music group “Past Forward” will provide live music to celebrate the power of love of young and old, gay and straight. Akia Woods will delight the audience with traditional and modern love songs.

Teen poets and writers representing the Gay/Straight Alliance Clubs from Lincoln County high schools will read their work, and adults will read striking modern and traditional love poetry. Newlyweds, gay and straight, will be celebrated at the party.

The best bakers from local churches and PFLAG members will donate delightful and decadent Valentine desserts for a chocolate heaven.

Guests will create hand-made Valentine cards from hearts, flowers, glitter, and glue provided by the Toledo United Methodist Church.

Photographer Jerry Thompson will take Sweet-heart Photos for only \$10.

[Photo on right is from last year’s Love Is Love.]



## 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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