



Jeanne St.John/  
Brent Burford, Co-Chairs  
Deb Lyman, Secretary  
Debbie Spicer, Treasurer  
Nel Ward, Newsletter  
Editor  
nelcward@charter.net  
nclsnewday.wordpress.com

Contact: PO Box 2172,  
Newport, OR 97365  
(541)265-7194 [pflag-  
occ@gmail.com](mailto:pflag-occ@gmail.com)

[www.occpflag.org](http://www.occpflag.org)

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 en-  
lighten an ill-informed  
public

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

# Oregon Central Coast Chapter

December 2013

## Take Action!

The Senate passed ENDA, ending discrimination in the workforce for all LGBT people, with a vote that included ten Republicans. Tell Speaker John Boehner (R)OH he's wrong to not address the bill in the House. [http://pac.petitions.moveon.org/sign/to-speaker-john-boehner?source=none&fb\\_test=0](http://pac.petitions.moveon.org/sign/to-speaker-john-boehner?source=none&fb_test=0)

Methodist pastors can be put on trial for marrying a gay or lesbian couple. That's what happened to Rev. Frank Schaefer of Lebanon (PA) after he officiated at his son's wedding to another man. Almost 50 pastors in Pennsylvania, 36 of them Methodist, protested this policy by blessing a same-sex wedding on November 9. Local Bishop Peggy Johnson, who supports marriage equality, can refuse to pursue formal charges against these pastors. You can ask her to do this: [http://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/methodistwedding/?source=sign\\_on](http://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/methodistwedding/?source=sign_on)

Carmen Carrera is a transgender model and an inspiration to many people, including Marco Regalado who has a petition calling on Victoria's Secret to employ Carrera as the first transgender model for the company. What a great way to commemorate this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance! <https://www.change.org/petitions/victoriasecret-make-carmen-carrera-the-first-trans-vs-model>

More Action Items on page 5.

## Congratulations!

The December OCC PFLAG newsletter is early because Jeanne and Kae are heading over to California to get married on Thanksgiving!  
Our best wishes to the two of you.

# Oregon Closer to Marriage Equality



During the past year, marriage equality has swept across the country as ten states legalized same-sex marriage: Maine, Maryland, and Washington did this through a popular vote in November 2012, and another seven states established this right through legislative or judicial decisions. Couples started marrying in New Mexico because the state had no law against it. That state's marriage equality decision is now in the courts.

The monumental decision from the U.S. Supreme Court last June gave many federal rights to same-sex couples married in states with legalized same-sex marriage and put California onto the "legal" list of 16 states. After the Supreme Court ruling, many same-sex couples traveled to states where they can be legally married.



That was the case on October 6 when Nel Ward and Sue Hardesty (center)—partners for over 44 years—joined Juneau (AK) friends, Leann Griffin (left) and Samra Green in a joint ceremony in Seattle.



Local author Lee Lynch wrote about the wedding and the "bachelor party" in her column, "The Amazon Trail." <http://www.eriegaynews.com/news/article.php?recordid=201312butchstagparty>

A bonus for the Ward/Hardesty ceremony was their house party on November 3 that raised \$1071 for Oregon United for Marriage. The donations were matched by ACLU of Oregon and HRC. Thanks everyone!



Congratulations to Greg Holland, Waldport City Councilor, and his partner Carlos Lazaro (right) on their Long Beach (CA) wedding on November 12.

They have been partners for 26 years and lived for eight years in Waldport.



**2013:** A HISTORIC YEAR FOR THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

WE'VE WON MARRIAGE IN **7 MORE STATES**, FOR A TOTAL OF 16 STATES AND THE NATION'S CAPITAL



## Tell Us about Your Marriages

We want to write about your weddings! If you have been legally married, either inside or outside the United States, send your photos and stories, including permission to publish these in the PFLAG newsletter, to [nelcward@charter.net](mailto:nelcward@charter.net)

# *Politics on Our Side*

**Philadelphia:** Mayor Michael Nutter signed legislation that requires all new or renovated city-owned buildings to include gender-neutral bathrooms, updates the city's anti-discrimination protections to include transgender residents, and sets tax credits for companies with pro-LGBT benefits.

**Arkansas:** Attorney General Dustin McDaniel has accepted language for a proposed 2016 ballot measure that would repeal the state's constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage and legalize marriage equality in the state.

**Florida:** The state Supreme Court ruled that a woman who donated an egg to her lesbian partner has parental rights to the child and ordered a lower court to work out custody, child support, and visitation arrangements.

**New Jersey:** A federal court upheld the state's new law banning "conversion therapy" for LGBT minors.

**United States:** A Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony took place at the gravesite of Air Force Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, the first active duty service member to challenge the military's ban on gays. The ashes of gay activist Frank Kameny, a World War

II combat veteran, will be buried near the Matlovich gravesite. Kameny was fired by the U.S. government in 1957 for being gay and denied any more employment with it.

**United States:** The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in Oklahoma became at least the seventh Native American tribal nation to legalize marriage equality on their lands. The others are Washington state's Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Suquamish Tribe, Oregon's Coquille Indian Tribe, California's Santa Ysabel tribe, and Michigan's Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa and Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

**United States:** The Coast Guard became the first branch of the Armed Forces to add sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy.

**European Union:** Persecuted gay and lesbian Africans can now seek asylum in the EU, according to a ruling of the Court of Justice. The decision stated that the criminalization of homosexuality alone doesn't justify asylum. "The acts of persecution must be sufficiently serious by their nature of repetition as to constitute a severe violation of human rights," the court said.

## **Senate Passes ENDA in Historic Vote to Protect LGBT Workers**

The Senate made history when it voted 64-32 to pass ENDA, landmark legislation extending workplace protections to the LGBT community. The vote was the first one in 17 years when a similar bill failed by only one vote. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) is refusing to take the bill to the lower chamber. One reason the GOP has given for rejection is that protections contained in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which bans workplace discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation, are already enjoyed by American workers. There are 29 states, including Boehner's home state of Ohio, that permit discrimination against LGBT people in the workforce.

Oregon's Sen. Jeff Merkley said, "Americans understand that it's time to make sure our LGBT friends and family are treated fairly and have the same opportunities. Now it's time for our laws to catch up. People should be judged at work on their ability to do the job, period."

## Freedom to Marry Campaign Continues

Lincoln County activists continue to gather signatures and support for Freedom to Marry in Oregon. Ineka Estabrook and Rhonda Jantzen are coordinating efforts and providing support to those who volunteer their time and energy.

You can be trained to gather signatures by contacting [inekae@gmail.com](mailto:inekae@gmail.com) for a short training and necessary materials. Carry a petition with you and inquire at every meeting or gathering if anyone still needs to sign the petition.

Over 110,000 signatures have already been collected. The campaign is aiming for about 50,000 to provide a good margin above the 116,000 required to place the measure on the 2014 ballot.—Jeanne St.John

## Follow-up: Barilla Pasta

Two months ago Barilla's CEO told LGBT people that they didn't have to buy his product. Now the company is introducing a Diversity & Inclusion Board and a Global Diversity Officer. It also plans to participate in the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index.

## Gates, Boy Scouts Leader

The new leader of the Boy Scouts of America is a man who supported the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"—former U.S. Secretary of Defense and CIA director Robert Gates. The ban on gay scouts officially ends at the end of December, but a prohibition on openly gay adult leaders will continue to exist.

## *TransActive Founder Speaks in Newport*

At its Newport meeting at 6 PM on Wednesday, Nov 13, Jenn Burleton, TransActive founder and director, was the featured speaker. She gave an educational (and entertaining) presentation that included videos about two children and their families who had transitioned before puberty. Earlier in the day she conducted a similar workshop for health and education professionals held at the Lincoln County Mental Health Department. Many local therapists attended and appreciated the opportunity to learn from one of the leading transgender/gender non-conforming experts in the country. Thank you, Jenn Burleton!!—Jeanne St.John



Left to right: Nancy Mead, OCC NOW president, Jenn Burleton, and Jeanne St. John

## **PFLAG Partners in 2013-14 Youth Leadership Academy**

Again this year PFLAG OCC will partner with PAADA (Partnership Against Alcohol & Drug Abuse) and Lincoln Conflict Resolution Center to offer three one-day workshops for students in Lincoln County high schools and Angell Job Corps.

The first session was held on Tuesday, November 19, at Hatfield Marine Science Center where the day started with a panel of community leaders from public, private, and non-profit organizations. Later, students rotated through three sessions where they learned more about ethical decision making, the power dynamics of bully prevention, and the issues of likely marijuana legalization in Oregon.

Using a fractal model, students will take this information back to their schools and share with others—and return in January for the next workshop. For more information about the Youth Leadership Academy, contact PAADA Director Don McDonald at 541-574-7890.

## Teenager Makes a Difference, Changes Apple Dictionary

Fifteen-year-old Becca Gorman, the daughter of two lesbians, calls the third definition of “gay” in an Apple dictionary. The definition reads: “informal – foolish; stupid; making students wait for the light is kind of a gay rule.” She wrote to Apple where CEO Tim Cook has been named the most powerful gay man in the world. Apple called Becca to tell her that they would look into correcting the definition. Some dictionaries have removed the definition entirely whereas dictionary.com has changed it to “Slang: Often Disparaging and Offensive. awkward, stupid, or bad; lame: This game is really gay.”



Earlier this year, a San Francisco-based group called HACKmarriage put stickers on books in libraries and bookstores that changed the definitions of marriage from being a union of a man and a woman to being a union of “two people.” Last summer, the United Kingdom Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and the online Macmillandictionary.com revised their definitions of marriage to reflect the legal recognition of same-sex relationships: “The relationship between two people who are husband and wife, or a similar relationship between people of the same sex.”

Macmillandictionary.com editor-in-chief Michael Rundell said this change may lead to a redefining of the terms “husband” and “wife.” The OED.com people said that “dictionaries reflect changes in the use of language, rather than changes in law.” Their definition is “the condition of being a husband or wife; the relation between persons married to each other; matrimony”, with a supplementary line which says “the term is now sometimes used with reference to long-term relationships between partners of the same sex.”

## Boy Suspended for Carrying Bag to School



School may oppose 13-year-old Skylar Davis’ decision to carry a brightly colored bag to his school, but his parents support him in his choice to do this. Nothing in the student handbook prevents him from carrying the bag, and he did it for three months before Assistant Principal Don Hillard gave him a choice: take off the bag or get suspended.

Schools around the nation discriminate against LGBT students. In Georgia, private Christian schools that receive millions of taxpayer dollars regularly expel LGBT students and their allies. A North Carolina school permitted a teen to take his boyfriend to prom only after his mom intervened. In Colorado, a six-year-old girl couldn’t use the appropriate bathroom until her parents filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Division. In Minnesota, the Anoka-Hennepin school district fought against an inclusive anti-bullying policy. In Texas, it’s okay to out LGBT students to their parents.

You can tell Skylar Davis’ school district to repeal his suspension and take it off his permanent school record: <http://www.change.org/petitions/anderson-county-jr-sr-high-administrators-repeal-skylar-davis-suspension-and-allow-him-to-continue-carrying-his-vera-bradley-designer-handbag>

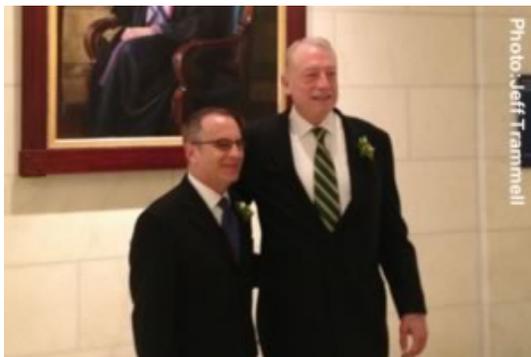
# People Who Make a Difference

**Larry Choate III**, 27, and **Daniel Lennox**, 28, were the first gay couple to be married at West Point's Cadet Chapel on November 2. Both graduates of the institution, Choate had taught at the Cadet Chapel. The first same-sex marriage at the chapel was between Brenda "Sue" Fulton, 53, and Penelope Gnesin, 52, almost a year ago. The couple had been together for 17 years. A few days before their wedding, Ellen Schick and Shannon Simpson were the first same-sex couple to marry at West Point when they wed at the older, original cadet chapel built in 1836.



Rep. **Mike Michaud** (D-ME) became the seventh openly LGBT member of the House after writing an op-ed to disclose his sexual orientation. Engaged in a three-way race for governor, he wrote that he decided to be openly gay to address "whisper campaigns, insinuations and push-polls" that raised questions about his sexuality. After the publication of the op-ed, the Maine Association of Police and the Professional Fire Fighters endorsed Michaud over incumbent Republican Gov. Paul LePage and wealthy independent Eliot Cutler.

After Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star **Brittney Griner** came out as lesbian earlier this year, she talked about her WNBA orientation. About a third of it is about fashion, hairstyle, and make-up. Griner said she preferred the one on 401(k). She also commented on the NBA orientation teaching about "gold-digger groupies who might prick tiny holes in condoms."



**Jeff Trammell** and **Stuart Serkin** (left), partners for 36 years, married in the lawyers lounge at the Supreme Court Building with retired **Justice Sandra Day O'Connor** officiating. It is not the first wedding where O'Connor officiated, but it is the first one in the Supreme



Court Building. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has also married three couples.

## 'Love Is Love' Is Back!!

PFLAG's beloved Love Is Love Valentine Party is back—planned for Sunday, Feb. 9. You are invited to help plan the festivities on Thursday, December 5, at 1:30 pm at the Chalet in Newport to divide up the planning duties and get started!

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### Gay Straight Alliances Mini-Grants

What does your GSA need this year to succeed and have more influence in your school? Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition and Portland PFLAG are collaborating again this year to support GSAs by offering mini-grants.

OSSCC will provide mini-grants to GSAs outside the Portland metropolitan area, and Portland PFLAG will provide mini-grants to GSAs within Portland metro area.

Mini-grants of up to \$200 are based on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds are depleted. Application forms are available at [www.oregonsafeschools.org](http://www.oregonsafeschools.org)

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### PFLAG OCC Helps to Present LGBT 101 at Dallas High School

On November 3 a workshop for staff at Dallas High School was led by Becca Fromherz, co-chair of the newly formed Dallas/Polk County PFLAG Chapter, and Jeanne St. John, co-chair of PFLAG OCC. This 45-minute presentation on the basics of human sexuality uses the Genderbread Person as a model.

The staff also learned about the dangers of discrimination and misunderstanding to LGBT students and to the entire school climate. Staff members expressed gratitude and appreciation for the workshop and were very supportive of the new GSA started by Dallas High students with support from the area's new PFLAG chapter.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**December 1, 7:00 pm:** World AIDS Day, Commemoration, Pizza Night, Galucci's, Lincoln City before a gathering at the AIDS Memorial Tree, St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Highway 101

**December 5, 1:30 pm:** Love Is Love Party Planning Meeting, Chalet, Newport

**December 8, 11:00 am:** Women's Coffee Hour, Pirates Coffee, 247 SW Highway 101, Lincoln City

**December 11, 6:00 pm:** PFLAG Holiday Dessert Potluck, St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**December 12, 1:00 pm:** LGBT Task Force Meeting, Western Title Building, Room 206, Newport

**January 8, 6:00-7:30 pm:** PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

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**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 [coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com) for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, [coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:coastalaidsnetwork@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.

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**Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:**

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

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### What's Happening with PFLAG in Lincoln City?

The Board of Oregon Central Coast PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will act on the recommendation from those who attended the meeting or provided input that a regular PFLAG meeting be replaced with LGBT-related periodic events in Lincoln City. Because there are already support groups for gay men, an active GSA at Taft High, and an LGBT-friendly sense in the community, it was decided to plan special events engaging larger groups instead of holding monthly education and support meetings.

## Join PFLAG!

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual or Household (\$30)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student/Limited Income (\$20)  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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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**Oregon Central Coast PFLAG**  
**P.O. Box 2172**  
**Newport, Oregon 97365**