

Ineka Estabrook—2017 Queer Hero



Each year, Gay & Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest Selects 30 “queer heroes,” one for each day of Pride Month. Ineka Estabrook, OCC PFLAG Chair, joins Jeanne St.John (2015) and Nel Ward (2016) in her selection from OCC PFLAG. Following is the nomination written by Jeanne St.John:

Several years ago Ineka Estabrook, the mother of a young teen daughter, appeared at a monthly meeting of the Oregon Central Coast PFLAG chapter in Newport, OR. She was flustered and confused because her daughter had just come out to her family and at school where she had been bullied by other students. That meeting was a turning point for both Ineka’s family and for PFLAG OCC. She jumped in with both feet and has made a huge impact on LGBTQ rights and efforts in Lincoln County and beyond.

Marriage Equality was a front-burner issue at the time—and Ineka led Lincoln County’s very successful efforts to raise the level of awareness and support. She and her daughter were out on the streets virtually every weekend making a visible difference.

Ineka’s initial efforts were primarily focused on making LGBTQ students safer in local schools—she took on organizing for Day of Silence, Upstander Week, and No Name Calling Week in the four high schools in the county. She created a network of GSA Advisors so they would feel supported and be able to share ideas and practices. This led to the first Lincoln County GSA Conference, now an annual event bringing together up to 50 students from the four high schools to share their club’s activities and successes and to create social contacts among these LGBTQ students who are isolated in small schools in small towns.

Ineka has led many field trips for local students to Portland and Willamette Valley LGBTQ events including Gay/Lesbian Proms, PRIDE Parades, and Nike Youth Conferences.

Ineka has had a huge influence on the Lincoln County School District with the trainings she has planned and led with LCSD students. She and high school students have presented many LGBTQ 101 and Trans 101 workshops for school administrators, teachers, and classrooms. The District quickly implemented plans for trans-friendly restrooms in each school following the students’ first presentation to district leaders.

As transgender issues have emerged as a high priority in our county, Ineka has taken a leadership role in providing information to the entire community. Under Ineka’s leadership LGBTQ 101 and Trans 101 workshops have also been presented to the community’s health professionals, to Senior & Disability Service staffs, DHS, department heads of Newport City, and other organizations.

Because LGBTQ students are so isolated in their small schools with very few other gay/lesbian/trans students, Ineka has hosted monthly LGBTQ Socials at her home where young people can gather to share food and drink, games, and each other’s company. She arranges transportation so students can get to the Socials from outlying areas, a major issue in this rural area.

Federal Government May Permit LGBTQ School Discrimination

Taxpayers should fund schools that reject LGBTQ students, according to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. In a hearing before the U.S. House, she said that “school choice” and state flexibility are more important than protecting vulnerable students’ right to an equal education when considering school vouchers. DeVos was asking for a \$250 million increase in school vouchers.

Politics on Our Side

Chicago (IL): A new partnership between the Chicago Department of Public Health and community providers has provided services to 3,600 people with HIV, four times the number served with HIV treatment in the previous year.

California: Prison officials must provide free undergarments that flatten the chest of transgender inmates at women's prisons and give transgender inmates at men's prisons access to bracelets, earrings, hair brushes and hair clips, according to a ruling from U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar. The ruling came from a lawsuit by Shiloh Quine to give certain products to transgender inmates.

Indiana: Over 100 graduating seniors at the University of Notre Dame walked out of their ceremony at the beginning of VP Mike Pence's speech in protest to several of his positions, including his opposition to LGBTQ rights. They stated the former governor's "policies have impacted the humanity of certain graduates." Objection to Pence as a commencement speaker began last month when they distributed 500 small rainbow flags on the campus. Pence's speech was preceded by one from valedictorian C.J. Pine who talked about his growing up in China and being "skewered on the fence" if the United States builds walls against international students. Salutatorian José Alberto Suárez is a native of Mexico.

Massachusetts: Wal-Mart has settled a class action suit for \$7.5 million to pay for 380 claims that employees in the U.S. and Puerto Rico could not get health insurance for same-gender spouses from 2011 to 2013. Jacqueline Cote, whose wife died of ovarian cancer in 2016, filed the lawsuit. The retail store started providing the insurance in 2014.

Oregon: The state legislature has passed a law removing barriers to transgender people getting state official documents befitting gender identity. State Sen. Arnie Roblan said, "It's

been a passion of mine to treat all people the way they feel they need to be treated. It's not mine to make that decision for them. And so this bill is one of those things that starts allowing people to make some of those choices in our state." [Ed. Note: Yea for our state—and for our senator and representative!]

United States: Joshua Vallum, 29, was sentenced to 49 years in prison on federal hate crimes for killing a transgender person. In Gulfport (MS), U.S. District Judge Louis Guirrola Jr. could have sent Vallum to life in prison without parole for his 2015 murder of 17-year-old Mercedes Williamson, but he gave a lesser sentence because of Vallum's neglected childhood and other issues.

United States: The 7th Court of Appeals has ruled that a same-gender couple, David Ermold and David Moore, may sue Kentucky clerk Kim Davis for punitive damages because she repeatedly refused to grant them a marriage license, legal at the time of requests.

United States: Huge! Federal judge Joseph Leeson has ruled that a transgender woman may continue an employment discrimination lawsuit under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He wrote that gender identity is not covered by the ADA but gender dysphoria is. Leeson explained the ADA's intent is to "provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities" and defines a disability as "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of [an] individual." The DSM-5 classifies gender dysphoria separately from gender identity; the term gender dysphoria describes discontent stemming from gender identity issues. "Gender nonconformity is not in itself a mental disorder"; gender dysphoria is "the presence of clinically significant distress associated with the condition."

News Bits

A study about transgender people has indicated that their brains are “more similar in some respects to the brains of their experienced gender than those of their natal gender.”

Another study used a steroid that causes a different brain response in men and women and found that “the adolescent boys and girls with gender dysphoria responded much like peers of their experienced gender.” Basically, transgender males share biological traits with cisgender men and vice versa for transgender females.

New polls show that, for the first time, a majority of Protestants support legalized marriage equality. Overall, 64 percent of people in the United States say that same-gender marriage should be legal.

Support for same-sex relations (civil unions) has also climbed; it is now at 72 percent.

Nine faculty members left North Carolina’s Montreat College after it mandated that faculty and staff sign a document affirming “the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman” and the “worth of every human being from conception to death.”

The order was given after Franklin Graham’s organization donated \$100,000 to the college’s scholarship fund. Some students also plan to leave. Montreat has approximately 450 students.

Yachats Pride Weekend

Yachats is going all out to celebrate LGBTQ people on the first weekend of June!



Saturday, June 3

- ◆ 2:00 pm: Chris Williamson in Concert
- ◆ 4:15 pm: Two-Spirit Discussion
- ◆ 5:30 pm: Mixed-up Mixer & Hors D’oeuvres
- ◆ 6:30 pm: Bingo Extravaganza and Revue

Sunday, June 4, 11:30 am: Pride Family Picnic

Above events are at Yachats Commons and 501 Building—
Highway 101 & 4th Street

For more information, contact info@yhachatspride.org
541-547-3182

Yachats Community Presbyterian Church is sharing in the event by sponsoring a screening of the documentary *Out of Order* about struggles of LGBTQ faith leaders in confronting entrenched bigotry while they build loving support within their churches. The church will also have a Pride Celebration Worship, including special music before the Family Pride Picnic. These events are at the church (360 W 7th St.).

June 2, 7:00 pm: Showing of *Out of Order*

June 4, 10:00 am: Presbyterian Worship

Gauthier Destenay, the husband of Luxembourg prime minister Xavier Bettel, is pictured below with other spouses of NATO leaders at the recent summit. [The White House forgot to include his name in the caption but added it after a reminder.]



Politics around the World

Argentina: Analia Pasantino was forced out of the Buenos Aires police force because she is transgender but has returned as deputy police commissioner in the judicial communications department and the first police chief in Latin America. In 2012, two years after it legalized marriage equality, the country gave people the ability to change legal and physical identities without the need for any judicial, psychiatric, and/or medical procedures.



Canada: City council members in Lethbridge (Alberta, Canada) voted 8-1 to be the first city to have a permanent transgender pride flag painted on its streets. It will also have a permanent LGBTQ pride flag painted on a crosswalk.

Canada: The Canada Post is commemorating Canada's 150th anniversary with a series of ten stamps, one of which honors the country's position on marriage equality.



Ireland: The country has dropped its charge of blasphemy against gay English comedian, actor, writer, presenter, and activist Stephen Fry because not enough people were upset with his comments about God. Over two years ago, Fry described God as "capricious", "mean-minded", "stupid," and an "utter maniac" during a television interview, complaining about a "god who creates a world that is so full of injustice and pain."

Lithuania: After the U.S. denied asylum to persecuted gay and bi Chechens, Lithuania is among the first EU countries to give visas to two men persecuted because of their sexual orientations.

Romania: The capital of Bucharest saw at least 1,000 gay pride marchers demanding greater rights and holding a moment of silence in front of the Russian embassy for the detained and tortured gays of Chechnya. About 30 ambassadors supported the march, and U.S. Ambassador Hans G. Klemm joined the 13th annual march. The country decriminalized homosexuality in 2001, and Romania lawmakers changed the constitution last year to defining marriage as a union between "spouses."

Taiwan: The Constitutional Court ruled for marriage equality in a first in Asia.

Chelsea Manning Has Been Freed

Chelsea Manning was released on May 17, the International Day against Transphobia and Biphobia. As an Army private serving in Iraq, she leaked classified documents to show what she considered atrocities performed by the U.S. government. After three years in confinement, she was sentenced in 2013 to 35 year in prison. Days before the end of his presidency, Barack Obama commuted her sentence to time served as of May 17, 2017. Manning said that her first project after her release is starring in a documentary, *XY Chelsea*, about her ordeal in transitioning to a transwoman in a federal prison.



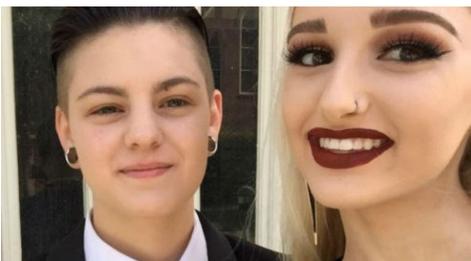
People Who Make a Difference

Mr. C , also known as Chen, is fighting his firing from a sales job because he is transgender. This case from a 28-year-old activist may be the first in China and breaks new ground. When he was dismissed, he was told that he didn't look "healthy" although Chinese health authorities don't classify homosexuality as a disorder. Chen's case in an employment tribunal shows how transgender people are becoming more vocal in that country.



Father James Martin, a Jesuit priest in New York City, wrote on Facebook that some Roman Catholic Church's beloved and revered saints "were probably gay." Criticized for his statement, he responded, "I don't believe that people end up [in hell] because they're LGBT. What lands people in hell (at least according to the Gospels) is not carrying out Jesus's commands to love, forgive and care for the poor. And what lands us in heaven (again, according to the Gospels) is love, forgiveness, and charity."

For prom time, here is a photo of West Virginia gay teens from last year, **Michael Martin and Logan Westrope**, as they prepared for their prom date. After his shift as a fast food worker, Martin handed Westrope (right) a bag with a chicken sandwich and asked, "Are you a chicken or will you go to the prom with me?" Westrope "easily and gladly said yes," Martin said.



Lindsey Creel (left) and **Brie Grimes**, seniors at Leon High School (Tallahassee) and together for three years, were voted the Florida's first-ever same-gender prom couple last year.

Rachel Maddow, ranked top in cable non-sports programming for at least one week in May, is *Out's* third most powerful queer person: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/out-magazine-power-50_us_570ff30ce4b06f35cb6ef4f7?utm_hp_ref=queer-voic-es&ncid=newsltushpmsg00000003



OCC PFLAG Meeting

The June 14 meeting (see calendar) will be bitter-sweet—both honoring her for her Queer Hero award (p. 2) and bidding a farewell to Chair Ineka Estabrook. She is changing her status to Consultant and leaving the United States for a few months.

We will miss Estabrook's charm, enthusiasm, dedication, and competence. She invites everyone across the street from St. Stephens to La Roca's for margaritas after the meeting.

More Bits

A Catholic school student in Missouri was assigned a paper on why marriage equality is wrong: this is the 127-page document he wrote called "**Gay Marriage Is Fabulous.**" https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wPiLck3zM-z7PbJvxSZQSiMi8_ZivXqmfVfnV-Yfiri/pub

A new survey by the Center for American Progress (CAP) of **LGBTQ discrimination and how it changes behaviors:** <https://www.vox.com/identities/2017/5/2/15505132/lgbtq-discrimination-cap-survey>



Media Matters:

Image Comics celebrates Pride month with special edition covers of such comics as *Walking Dead*, *Redneck*, *Grrl Scouts: Magic Socks*, *Rose #3*, and *The Divided States of Hysteria #1*. All proceeds made from the June Pride variant covers go to Human Rights Campaign.

The Guardian has compared new Irish film, *Handsome Devil*, to Oscar-winning *Moonlight*. The coming-of-age comedy follows an artistic, outcast teen sent to an all-boys boarding school where he is bullied by his sports-minded classmates until a friendship with rugby jock roommate.

Mama Said, a one-minute film from the clothing outfitter Gap, celebrates motherhood and features actress Liv Tyler and her children along with a family headed by two lesbian moms.

Harper Design will release the book, *Santa's Husband*, in which the black jolly gift-giver marries a white man. The text is from Daniel Kibblesmith, a comedy writer on *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert, and illustrations are by A.P. Quach.



OCC PFLAG Calendar

June 2, 7:00 pm: Showing of documentary *Out of Order*—Yachats Presbyterian Church, 360 W 7th Street

June 3-4: Yachats Pride Festival—Yachats (See p. 4)

June 13, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Embarcadero, 1000 SE Bay Blvd., Newport

June 14, 6:00-8:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—Celebrating Ineka Estabrook—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

June 24, 7:00-10:00 pm: LGBTQ Social for Teens and Young Adults! 1845 NE Crestview Place, Newport (More information: (541-961-8907) or (541)829-9049)

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

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.

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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PO Box 2172
Newport, OR 97365

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