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Parents, Families and  
Friends of Lesbians and  
Gays promotes the  
health and well- being  
of gay, lesbian, bisexu-  
al, 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

July 2015

Petitioners in Vancouver (BC) hope to make Burrard Bridge into a rainbow with their names on the rainbow. The plan is to unveil the rainbow on July 30 to welcome the over one-half million people for Vancouver Pride Weekend. You can add your name here: <https://www.change.org/p/the-city-of-vancouver-transform-burrard-bridge-into-the-biggest-pride-rainbow-ever>



The White House glows with pride at the U.S. legalization of marriage equality on June 26, 2015. More info at <https://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2015/06/26/im-really-married/>

# Local PFLAGers Celebrate in Portland, Yachats

## PFLAG in the Yachats LaDeDa Parade

Once again PFLAG OCC will have a rainbow contingent in the July 4 LaDeDa Yachats Community Parade. Other coastal PFLAG groups from Florence and Gold Beach plan to walk with us. We'll gather at 11:00 am in the shelter behind Yachats Commons to get acquainted and share our rainbow regalia. Come join the fun—wear and bring your rainbow gear—or borrow ours. The crowd is friendly and supportive, and we're their Rainbow Clan!



## PFLAG OCC Marches in Portland Pride Parade

Two PFLAG Moms and seven local young people spent a long day enjoying the fun, frivolity, and fellowship of the Portland Pride Parade. They joined the big contingent of PFLAG groups and were greeted with the love and appreciation that has come to mark PFLAG appearances.

The LGBT community holds PFLAG in very high regard because of

the early support of PFLAG parents who were Upstanders for their sons and daughters.

PFLAG Mom Ineka Estabrook and PFLAG Mom Laurel Woods (right) created the winged costumes for the local GSA and PFLAG young people.

Everyone was amazed at the size of the parade and the number of organizations and businesses that participated. They declared the experience a great success and can't wait for next year.



# *Politics on Our Side*

**Arkansas:** Pulaski Circuit Judge Wendell Griffen validated the 540 same-sex marriages that took place in the state from May 10 to May 16 last year after another judge struck down the state's same-sex marriage ban.

**Florida:** Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill allow same-sex couples to adopt children, following a 2010 court ruling that overturned the law preventing couples from this right.

**Idaho:** Bellevue became the 13th city in this state to pass an ordinance providing civil liberties protections for LGBT citizens to prohibit discriminatory acts in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

**New Jersey:** A jury has ruled that "gay conversion therapy," designed to turn LGBT people straight violates the state's consumer fraud act. Three men and two parents sued Jews Offering New Alternatives for Healing because of lying and using methods with no scientific basis. They were awarded over \$72,000 in the civil judgment. To be decided later by a judge is the request to revoke the license of the company.

**Texas:** Bills banning marriage equality in the state all failed, and Gov. Greg Abbott has said that he will not call a special session to consider these exceptions to same-sex marriage.

**Guam:** A judge has struck down a law defining marriage as being between couples of the opposite sex.

**United States:** The ACLU has determined that only six of 78 religious freedom bills discriminating against LGBT people introduced this year have become law, and two of these were scaled back. States passing these discrimination laws are Arkansas, In-

diana, Michigan, North Carolina, and Utah. After Louisiana failed to pass its law, Gov. Bobby Jindal, now a GOP presidential candidate, issued an executive order that discriminates against the LGBT community. None of the "ID to pee" bills against transgender people that mandated bathroom used based on biology became law.

**United States:** The Pentagon has added "sexual orientation" as a protected class under its Military Equal Opportunity Policy. The issue of a military ban on transgender personnel has not been addressed, but the government seems to be softening in this area. Both the Army and Air Force now require that any discharges because of being transgender be done at headquarters rather than with unit commanders. Approximately 15,500 transgender people are serving in America's armed forces but are banned from being treated by doctors.

**United States:** Federal officials ordered that transgender employees be permitted to use restrooms at work that correspond to their gender identity. The order, however, is not legally binding.

**United States:** On June 11, the White House hosted a first-of-its-kind forum dedicated to combating domestic and international bias-motivated violence against LGBT people.

**Ontario (Canada):** The province follows Manitoba in outlawing conversion therapy for LGBT youth although Manitoba totally blocks the practice of "curing" LGBT people of their sexual or gender identity. Ontario has blocked public funds from being used to fund this treatment for adults.

**Greenland:** This state of Denmark has extended full marriage recognition to same-sex couples.

### Kids of Same-Sex Parents Equal

Children raised by same-sex couples are just as well off as those raised by parents of the opposite sex. That's the scientific consensus from a new University of Colorado Denver study compiling all available research on same-sex parenting for decades.

Studies that seemed to disagree with this consensus fail to isolate the effect of having same-sex parents on children from the effects of divorce and separation.

A recent study by Mark Regnerus and Loren Marks, purporting that children of same-sex couples fare worse, actually shows the opposite with a re-analysis of his data controlling for these factors.

### IBM Cancels Ribbon-Cutting After Louisiana Discriminates

IBM clearly opposed the Louisiana's "religious freedom" law legalizing discrimination against LGBT people. When the legislature did not vote this into law, Gov. Bobby Jindal made it an executive order.

After the order, IBM canceled a ribbon-cutting at the new National Service Center in Baton Rouge that was promoted as a really big event. The center brings 800 tech jobs to the state.

### Landmarks Light Up After SCOTUS Ruling

The White House (p. 1) was not the only landmark to show pride after the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states.

Check out this link for more: <http://www.addictinginfo.org/2015/06/27/landmarks-nationwide-lit-up-the-night-in-beautiful-support-of-marriage-equality-images/>

## More News from around the World

**Mexico:** The country's supreme court has ruled that barring same-sex marriages is unconstitutional although it is considered a "jurisprudential thesis" and does not invalidate any state laws. Same-sex couples denied the right to marry must individually turn to the courts where judges and courts must approve the marriage because of the supreme court's ruling. Marriage equality is legal in parts of Mexico, including Mexico City and the northern state of Coahuila.

**Mozambique:** The decriminalization of homosexuality in this country brings the number of countries with this practice down to 78.

**Pitcairn Island:** The smallest country in the world, a group of four islands in the southern Pacific Ocean with a population of 48 people, may not have same-sex couples living there at this time, but it has still passed a law recognizing marriage equality.

**Taiwan:** Taipei has become the second Taiwanese city after Kaosiung to register same-sex couples although the partnerships have no legal effect.

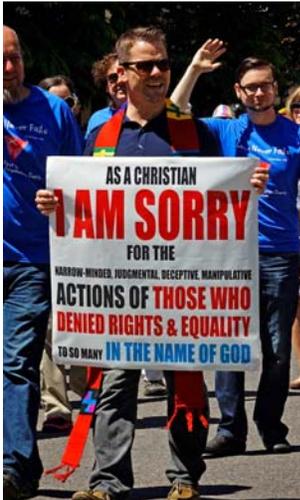
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**Johnson & Johnson has a new ad campaign for Tylenol** that celebrates the modern family. The voiceover states, "When were you first considered a family?" Then "When did you first fight to be considered a family?" And it finishes, "Family isn't who you love, but how." It's a lovely ad. And the haters on the right will despise it. The company said that it is committed to showing real families in their ads. The first ad showing same-sex parents can be seen here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oTS44SUwjM>



**Over 26,000,000 people have rainbowified Facebook! Go Rainbow!** <https://www.facebook.com/celebratepride>

# Portlanders Celebrate Pride, Marriage Equality



Portland spent much of June celebrating the LGBT community, first in the Pride Festival on June 13-14 and then after the Supreme Court legalized marriage equality on June 26. Gov. Kate Brown (right) led the June 14 Pride Parade as Grand Marshal. She is the first Oregon governor to participate in the parade. On June 13, the trans community celebrated with its second annual rally and parade in connection with Portland Pride. Portland photos by Ann Hubard. (Celebration rally center left.)



Check out Nate Hanson's Pride photographs at *Portland News*. <http://portlandnewspost.com/pride-parade-rolls-through-downtown-portland-3/>



Above: The "God Loves Gays" National Billboard Campaign has put up a sign in Salt Lake City on I-15. The purpose of the campaign is to send a positive message of love into the world and has been funded by a YouCaring.com campaign that raised almost \$15,000 in donations for billboards in Michigan and Utah. Other billboards are planned for other states including Alabama, Indiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

Left: Fisher-Price has teamed up with Proud Parenting to initiate a photo campaign to increase the visibility of same-sex parents. with a new, all-inclusive photo campaign. <http://www.proudparenting.com/>

# People Who Make a Difference



## Jeanne St. John

Jeanne St. John is one of the founders, and first president, of the Oregon Central Coast chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays), in Newport. That happened in 2008, following the suicide of a Newport High School student who had been harassed and bullied at school and had no support at home or in the community.

Before 2001, the community knew her as Dr. St. John, a school principal or district administrator, or perhaps as a coordinator and instructor in Portland State University's Master's in Curriculum and Instruction program (roles which she held simultaneously at least part of the time).

One role seems to have pointed towards the other, leaving Dr. St. John not only admirably qualified, but dynamic enough, and well-enough connected to advocate effectively for queer kids in a community that has not always been open to change.

Jeanne St. John has promoted Bully Prevention programs in Lincoln County Schools. She has taught LGBT 101 workshops to high school staff, students, and community groups. She has helped establish Gay/Straight Alliance clubs in local schools, and in the Job Corps. She has forged partnerships with schools, local elected officials, and community mental health organizations to serve LGBTQ youth. She's responsible for a very well-attended Valentine's Day event every year in Newport, which attracts both queer and straight communities.

Jeanne obviously couldn't have done all this alone; but it's not clear how much of it would have gotten done without her, and Lincoln County is clearly a better place for LGBTQ young people because of Dr. St. John and PFLAG-OCC.



**Hugh Held** (left) and his spouse **Orion Masters** have filed a class-action lawsuit (*Held v. Colvin*) to re-coup Social Security benefits given to married same-sex couples after the Supreme Court struck down DOMA. After the ruling, SSA issued higher benefits to married single-sex couples on the basis that they were considered single and then demanded repayment. The SSA refused to tell him how the decision would affect his annuities, but one year after DOMA was struck down, his monthly benefit dropped almost \$570, and he received a bill for \$6,205.

The two other plaintiffs are **Kelley Richardson-Wright** and **Kena Richardson-Wright** (right) from Athol (MA) who have been charged \$4,000. Kelly has been hospitalized for stress from extreme financial strain. Another issue comes from SSA's withholding some SS benefits, including survivor annuities, to same-sex couples in states without marriage equality. In this situation, U.S. code recognized state of residence, not state of celebration, to determine whether a couple's marriage is honored.



SOURCE: GLAD.ORG

## July PFLAG Meeting: Robert Kentta Siletz Approves Same-Gender Marriage

Robert Kentta, Siletz Tribal Council member and Cultural Specialist, will talk about how he helped guide the process for consideration and approval of marriage equality for the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. Multiple genders and more fluid sexual orientation have been part of indigenous American culture for hundreds--possibly thousands--of years. Although some current attitudes on reservations have been strongly affected by the beliefs and prohibitions practiced by Christian missionaries, several Northwest tribes have recently honored same-gender marriage after renewed interest in many old traditions.

Kentta will also talk about current attitudes and practices on the Siletz Reservation, especially regarding LGBTQ teens and young adults including their coming out and same-sex dating.

## PFLAG OCC Co-Chair Named Queer Hero of the Northwest

GLAPN (Gay & Lesbian Archive Project Northwest) named one Queer Hero for each day of June (Pride Month) and created a traveling display of their photos and stories. Congratulations to Jeanne St. John for being one of these heroes. (Information on p. 6.)



## Rainbow Flag Becomes Art

MoMA (Museum of Modern Art) has added the Rainbow Flag, designed by artist Gilbert Baker, to its permanent collection. Baker said he designed the flag because it “fit[s] us as a symbol, that we are a people, a tribe if you will. And flags are about proclaiming power [and] it's a natural flag--it's from the sky!”

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**July 1, 7:00 pm:** Trans Parents Coffee—Chalet, Newport

**July 4, 11:00 am:** LaDiDa Parade – Gather behind Yachats Commons – Yachats

**July 8, 6:00-7:30 pm:** PFLAG Meeting: Robert Kentta, Confederated Tribe of the Siletz—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**July 14, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's, Newport

**July 15, 10:00 am:** OUT OR Coast—Pig N Pancake, Newport

**July 18, 9:00 am-1:00 pm:** Newport Saturday Market PFLAG Table

**July 21, 7:00 pm:** CAN Pizza, All Welcome!—Abby's, Newport

**July 26, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Coast Women's Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

**August 8, 1:00-4:00 pm:** PFLAG Family Picnic—634 NE 7th Street, Newport

**August 15, 11:30 am:** OUT OR Coast Picnic, All Welcome - Yaquina Bay State Recreation Site near Yaquina Bridge, Newport

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**The Coastal AIDS Network\*** monthly activities:

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

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**Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:**

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

## 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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