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PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender 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 2018**

## **Protest Pays**

Concordia University, a conservative Lutheran college in Northeast Portland, has backed down on its decision to eliminate a student group supporting LGBTQ students after Willamette Week publicized the school's action. The Queer Straight Alliance can again reserve campus space for meetings and events and use student fees to pay for activities. The school didn't apologize for its earlier discrimination but promises to facilitate trainings for staff on how to support LGBTQ students. The student body selected the Queer Straight Alliance as "best club" for two years in a row and elected openly gay Ernesto Dominguez (below right) for student association president. Concordia's website advertises the school as "a liberal arts university that's ... friendly and welcoming."



## **Love Is Love!**

**February 10, 2:00-4:00 pm**  
**OCCC Lobby, South Beach**

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**PFLAG Scholarships!**

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(See page 2)

# PFLAG Celebrates 8th Valentine Party



Planning for the annual LOVE IS LOVE Valentine Party hosted by PFLAG is in full swing. This community Valentine Party will be from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Saturday, February 10 in the beautiful lobby of the Oregon Coast Community College in South Beach with a romantic Hearts and Flowers setting.

Popular local music group “Past Forward” will celebrate the power of love in all its wonderful and surprising forms—young and old, gay and straight. Vocals by Akia Woods (right below with former PFLAG chair Ineka Estabrook) 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. The party will celebrate newlyweds and longest married couples, gay and straight.

Delightful and decadent Valentine desserts donated by the best bakers from several local Welcoming Churches will make this celebration a really sweet treat and chocolate heaven. A table of hearts, flowers, glitter and glue encourages guests to create their own hand-made Valentine Cards to surprise sweethearts with unique and special cards from the heart.

This Valentine Party for old and young, gay and straight brings people together to celebrate the power of love in our lives. After all, Love is Love!

Donations will support PFLAG’s programs for LGBT youth. For more information about the Valentine Party or PFLAG, call 541-265-7194 or 541-265-2922.



## GSA Scholarships

PFLAG scholarships for post-secondary education upon completion of high school or equivalent to honor and encourage Lincoln County resident students for their service to the LGBQ community. Up to four scholarships for \$250-\$1000.

**Deadline: March 15, 2018** [For more information and application, contact: PO Box 2172, Newport, OR 97365; (541)265-7194; pflagocc@gmail.com]

# *Politics on Our Side*

**Palm Springs:** This California town now has an all-LGBTQ city council—three gay men, one transgender woman, and a bisexual woman—and without attention to sexual orientation or gender identity. People are worried about policing, homelessness, and roads.

**Alabama:** The state Senate may change the definition of “marriage” in the United States if its bill, passed by 19-1, also passes the state House. Only affidavits from couples would be necessary to legalize their marital relationship, separating marriage as “contract law” from sanctified relationships. The bill does not cover opposite gender marriages.

**Florida:** A mandate from the state’s surgeon general provides free Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to all residents by the end of 2018. If taken properly, the drug, sold under the brand name Truvada, is almost 100% effective at preventing HIV infection.

**Illinois:** A federal judge Jorge Alonso ruled that Palatine-based Township High School District 211 can grant transgender students the right to use facilities matching their gender identity. Over 50 families who claimed that giving transgender students this right prevents cisgender students from a nondiscriminatory education are considering an appeal to Alonso’s injunction. The slate of school board candidates promising to ban transgender students from the bathrooms overwhelmingly lost the 2017 election.

**New Jersey:** Kevin McManus, a former Spanish teacher at the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has received \$110,000 for students’ harassment. The administration failed to do anything about the disruptive behavior, and Jamie Morales, the school’s disciplinary coordinator, told one homophobic student that he should “keep doing what you’re doing” and “document Mr. McManus’ activity during class.” Other abuses also existed.

**Rhode Island:** Lesbian firefighter Lori Franchina won her lawsuit against Providence after the fire department ignored her complaints about the horrendous treatment from her colleagues who sometimes put people’s lives in jeopardy with their abuses.

**Virginia:** An Amazon worker was convicted of a hate crime after he grabbed a gay man and repeatedly punched him in the face. State law does not cover sexual orientation so the crime was turned over to the U.S. Attorney’s Office. A trial court earlier found that the federal government lacked jurisdiction, but a federal court agreed that the assault affected interstate commerce because a shipment of 5,500 items was involved.

**Washington:** The state senate could not pass a bill outlawing conversion therapy until Democrats earned a one-person majority in the November election. With a 32-16 vote, the Senate passed the bill that classifies attempts to change a minor’s sexual orientation as “unprofessional conduct” for health care providers. The bill is expected to pass the Democratic House followed by a predicted governor’s signature. Ten other states and D.C. ban conversion therapy for minors.

**Washington:** Residents may now pick X as the gender on birth certificates. Adults no longer need a doctor’s permission to change from one gender to another; minors need written consent of their parent/legal guardian and a licensed health care professional.

**Wisconsin:** The Kenosha Unified School District agreed to pay \$800,000 in a settlement after Ashton Whitaker sued because the school wouldn’t allow him to use the boys’ restrooms and continued to use his female birth name after he began transitioning. The district had forced Whitaker and other transgender students to wear green wristbands so that staff could recognize them and monitor their bathroom usage.

## News Bits

**How “buddies” are helping transgender people navigate health care:** with the new administrative guidelines allowing discrimination against LGBTQ people, all vulnerable populations should think about adopting the “buddy” system. <https://www.alternet.org/lgbtq/how-transgender-people-south-are-helping-each-other-get-health-care#.WmJnDnAudeo.facebook>

**A way to find LGBT-friendly doctors for better health care:** <http://smartgaylife.com/finding-gay-friendly-doctors/>

**Researchers may find a capsule that releases HIV drugs to a patient for an entire week.**

**Research is finding that being transgender is not a mental disorder.**

**Research also shows that trans youth who are accepted by their communities do not exhibit mental health issues.**

A Poster Mormon family headed by a gay man and a straight woman have evolved and now understand how they have hurt the LGBTQ family. They are also divorcing. **This very long blog explains their position.** <http://www.joshweed.com/2018/01/turning-unicorn-bat-post-announce-end-marriage/.html>

## Women’s March—Resist & Persist

Once again the march in Newport for social and economic rights brought out over a thousand people.



Happy Valentine’s Day! British luxury department store Fortnum and Mason is offering gay and lesbian versions of its hand-iced “Adam and Eve” tea “biscuits”—“Adam and Steve” and “Eve and Naimh.” The \$20 tin of cookies is not available from U.S. retailers.



Neighbors next-door to the home where Mike Pence spent his New Year’s vacation in Aspen (CO) welcomed the vice president with a rainbow banner at the entrance to the home where he stayed.

# Good News in Politics Continues

**United States:** At the age of 90, Helen Grace James has been granted an honorable discharge after being dismissed as “undesirable” in 1955 for suspicion that she was a lesbian. For those 62 years, she did not receive severance or benefits for veterans, including the GI Bill, veteran home loans, health care, USAA insurance, and the right to a burial in a national cemetery. Yet she worked her way to advanced degrees in physical therapy from the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University followed by a distinguished career.



**United States:** Because of his vicious racist, sexist, and homophobic statements, Carl Higbie has resigned as nominee for chief of external affairs for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that manages volunteer programs such as AmeriCorps.

**United States:** Aetna has agreed to settle a class action lawsuit for \$7 million after it outed almost 12,000 HIV/AIDS patients and those taking medications to prevent contracting the illness.

**United States:** House Minority Leader and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will appear as a guest judge on *RuPaul’s Drag Race: All Stars*.

**United States:** The U.S. Treasury Department has sanctioned Ramzan Kadyrov, the leader of Chechnya, and four others, all Russians, for suspected human rights abuses. Their bank assets in the U.S. are frozen, and they cannot enter the U.S. In a purge on LGBTQ people, Chechnya rounded up, detained, abused, interrogated, and sometimes killed possibly hundreds of LGBTQ people, and these abuses and murders may not have stopped.

**India:** The country’s Supreme Court will again review Section 377 of the penal code that bans same-gender relationships. Last August the court moved toward LGBTQ rights when it declared that same-gender sexual orientation is a fundamental concern of autonomy and individual identity.

**Latin America:** A ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to legalize marriage equality in Costa Rica will impact another nineteen countries that promised to abide by the ruling. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay have already legalized same-gender marriage, and Mexico has legalized marriage in several states. The ruling is legally binding on Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay. Homosexuality is criminalized in Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Tobago. Dominica, Grenada, and Jamaica do not recognize the court’s authority. The ruling could increase marriage equality in 26 countries to a total of 42 nations around the world.

**European Union:** The European Court of Justice is hearing the case of a man whose U.S. husband was refused residence in his home in Romania. The decision could expand legalized marriage equality across Europe.

# People Who Make a Difference



**Capt. Daniel Hall**, 30, and **Capt. Vincent Franchino**, 26, may be the first active-duty same-gender couple to be married at West Point. Both Apache helicopter pilots, they served under the repealed “don’t ask, don’t tell.” They met at West Point in 2009 but had to hide their feelings for each other.



Figure skating champion and future Olympian **Adam Rippon** (left), who came out as gay in 2015, said he wants to skip the greeting with VP Mike

Pence, who will lead the U.S. delegation to the Olympics. Pence has said that resources for HIV/AIDS treatment should go to “assistance to those seeking to change their sexual activity” but claimed that he doesn’t mean conversion therapy. Rippon believes that Pence’s claim that he is “a devout Christian man” is contradicted by Pence’s supporting Donald Trump’s sexual assault on women and denigration of non-white countries. A second openly gay man, skier **Gus Kenworthy** (above right), who also qualified for the Olympics in South Korea on February 9-25, agrees with Rippon.



**Ari Robbins** is suing Swedish Plastics and Aesthetics, affiliated with the Catholic health system Providence Health & Services, for canceling his chest surgery, a part of gender reassignment surgery, because the doctor refused to do a “transgender surgery.” Washington is one of five states where Catholic church restrictions control 40 percent of acute-care hospital beds. Last month, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops published a letter denying the existence of transgender people and called on hospitals to deny affirming care to trans children. One-third of transgender patients have reported at least one negative experience related to their gender identity.

**Zach Wahls**, the 26-year-old son of two lesbians, is running for Iowa’s senate. His priorities are healthcare, education, and workers’ rights. In 2011, he argued before the Iowa House Judiciary Committee in defense of marriage equality, and in 2012, he published a book, *My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family*.



## Oregon News

House Bill 26-73 has simplified the process for a name or gender change requiring only a notarized application, \$60 and a copy of the birth certificate. **Directions:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWBgiwR5yww>

Michalle Wright, a 27-year-old transgender inmate, is being moved to the Coffee Creek Correctional Institution, a woman's facility in Wilsonville.

The state Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the ruling and \$135,000 fine against Melissa and Aaron Klein, owners of Gresham's Sweet Cakes, who refused to bake a wedding cake for a lesbian couple in 2013. A GoFundMe site brought the bakers almost \$500,000. The deadline for an appeal was February 1.

Activists are still trying to rename a 13-block piece of Stark Street to honor Harvey Milk.

<https://harveymilkpdx.org/>

## Media Matters:

**BuzzFeed recommends** 27 feel-good LGBTQ movies, and comments include more titles. [https://www.buzzfeed.com/hattiesoykan/lgbt-movies-with-happy-endings?utm\\_term=.nv2pvYWKl#.mxkMqpB9w](https://www.buzzfeed.com/hattiesoykan/lgbt-movies-with-happy-endings?utm_term=.nv2pvYWKl#.mxkMqpB9w)

**Two out lesbians** have made lesbian history for *Mudbound*: Rachel Morrison is the first woman nominated for cinematography, and Dee Rees the first black woman nominated for best adapted screenplay. Rees also directed the film.

**TV's first black lesbian superhero**, Nafessa Williams, can be seen on CW's *Black Lightning* as Anissa Pierce, i.e. Thunder.

**Queer Eye**, the show in which gay men showed other males how to become more classy in dress and home décor, is back on Netflix.

**The newest trans character** on television is Dr. Casey Parker, played by transgender Alex Blue Davis on *Grey's Anatomy*.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**February 7, 6:00 pm:** "Talking about Dying"—Samaritan Center for Health Building, 750 SW 9th St., Newport

**February 10, 2:00-4:00 pm:** Annual "Love Is Love" Community Valentine Party—Oregon College Community College, South Beach

**February 13, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

**February 21-24:** Corvallis Queer Film Festival 2018—Darkside Cinema, 215 SW 4th St, Corvallis: <http://calendar.oregonstate.edu/event/121161/>

**February 25, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Women Nana's for Lunch—NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

**March 15:** Deadline for PFLAG Scholarship applications (See p. 2)

**April 23-27:** Upstander Week

**April 27:** Day of Silence

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**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](mailto: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:

Oregon Central Coast PFLAG  
PO Box 2172  
Newport, OR 97365

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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