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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

December 2017

Take Action

A video of Cory Hall, interim football coach at Oregon State University and the only surviving member of the coaching staff after OSU's big loss to University of Oregon, shows him exhorting the team "Let's Go F*CK them TREE FAGS" in a pre-game speech before OSU's game against Stanford. Everyone in Oregon should be distressed that their state university permits this type of leadership. Those interested in expressing an opinion to OSU president, Ed Ray, can write him at Ed.Ray@oregonstate.edu or pres.office@oregonstate.edu. The speech is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmQehV0sJvw> [Ed: I think that Hall should be immediately terminated with no chance of future employment at OSU or any other state school.]

On November 13, two Oregon groups, Parents for Privacy and Parents Rights in Education, filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the Dallas School District's implementation of Oregon's public education guidelines protecting transgender and gender nonconforming students from harassment, discrimination and violence in schools.

Two years ago, a courageous freshman at Dallas High School named Elliot Yoder came out publicly at a city council meeting in public testimony after a city council member posted transphobic comments on his Facebook page. The school district wanted to know what they could do to support all kids in Dallas schools, so they received guidance from the Oregon Department of Education in the form of guidelines. More information about the case and a petition to sign: <http://www.basicrights.org/featured/sign-pledge-defend-transgender-youth/>

Share the Holidays with PFLAG at the Dessert Potluck!

December 13, 6:00-8:00 pm

St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

LGBTQ Rights Return to the U.S. Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* on December 5; the ruling will probably be issued a few days before they leave for recess in June 2018. The question is whether bakers can call themselves artists in order to discriminate against LGBTQ people. Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said in 1984, "The Constitution does not guarantee a right to choose employees, customers, suppliers, or those with whom one engages in simple commercial transactions, without restraint from the State." The bakers' lawyers are arguing that LGBTQ discrimination is different from racial or gender discrimination.

Another LGBTQ case submitted to the Supreme Court, *Turner v. Pidgeon*, concerns whether Houston (TX) can provide marital benefits to same-gender couples. The case has been in several courts with the state Supreme Court overturning an appellate court by establishing that the couples could be married but not receive spousal employment benefits. On December 1, 2017, the Supreme Court may determine whether to hear the case.

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court reversed an Arkansas Supreme Court ruling in *Pavan v. Smith* connecting birth certificates only to heterosexual marriage. Houston is basing the argument to provide the benefits on the Texas Supreme Court ignoring the U.S. Supreme Court rulings in *United States v. Windsor* giving the same rights to all married couples, including same-gender ones.

If selling a gay couple a wedding cake means a "christian" baker participated in their marriage, does selling a gun to a murderer mean a "christian" gun store owner participated in the murder?

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Starbucks holiday season animated television ad stating that "the cup is just the beginning" features families, including a lesbian interracial couple and finishes with two women leaning over a cup of coffee for a possible kiss.

The Kindness Rising Campaign Promotes Standing Up for Others

The PFLAG-generated "No Name Calling Week"—this year January 22-26—will be changing its focus from preventing bullying to promoting kindness. The Kindness Rising campaign calls on young people, educators, and caring adults to take the BE FEARLESS BE KIND pledge to stand up for others, be inclusive, and make a difference. For each person who takes the BE FEARLESS BE KIND pledge, Hasbro will donate a toy or game to Toys for Tots for up to 250,000 children in need this holiday season who have been impacted by the recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico, South Florida and Houston as well as fire victims in California. More information about the campaign: https://leadasap.ysa.org/?utm_campaign=Kindness%20Rising&utm_source=gkc Registration: <http://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/register/>

The Kindness Rising site also has ideas for putting kindness into action through small acts or service projects, including Kind Coins for Hurricane Relief. Participants who complete a service project can show their impact at www.YSA.org/KindnessRising/gkc to be eligible for grants. Ten participants will receive a \$250 grant.

Politics on Our Side

Arizona: “The library stands for respect, equality, and inclusion” reads the headline for a newspaper column written by Tara Wright, a page at a Puma County library. She tells

about how the people around her helped her “figure myself out” as she moved toward declaring herself agender, in her case gender neutral. While watching another person go through the same process that she was experiencing, Tara evolved from her fear of being “out” at work to becoming the library branch representative for the system’s LGBT Services Committee.

“It’s been an amazing experience to see just how much the library cares about our community,” she wrote. Her display for Pride Month included ten flags from the LGBTQ community with explanations of what they mean along with books from the library collections that included asexual titles. As Tara stated, “Being out ... is a continuous process.” She’s right, but she has a start. “But when it comes to feeling safe, and included, the library is one of the best places for me to just be me.”

California: The State Board of Education has recommended ten LGBTQ-inclusive history textbooks for grades K through 8 while rejecting two books from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt that failed to include LGBTQ people. The decision is in accordance with the state’s 2011 FAIR Education Act to add people with disabilities and LGBTQ people to the list of minorities whose contributions must be included in textbooks in the state. School districts are not required to select recommended books but must meet state standards.



Florida: A network of LGBT Floridians has locally passed 17 bans against conversion therapy for minors in 17 months. Starting with Miami Beach in June 2016, the most recent ban is in Broward County, home to Fort Lauderdale. Only nine states have a statewide ban on conversion therapy for minors.

Kentucky: Family court judge Mitchell Nancy has resigned because he didn’t want to hear cases involving gay and lesbian parents.

Missouri: The Court of Appeals Western District ruled that discrimination from sexual stereotypes is sex discrimination, requiring the Missouri Commission to investigate a claim. Judge Anthony Gabbert wrote: “If the employer mistreats a male employee because the employer deems the employee insufficiently masculine, it is immaterial whether the male employee is gay or straight. The prohibition against sex discrimination extends to all employees, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.” The state’s anti-discrimination law does not extend to LGBTQ people, but three judges ruled that discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation is prohibited under state laws barring sex discrimination.

Oklahoma: A federal jury awarded Rachel Tudor over \$1.1 million because the transgender professor was denied tenure and promotion at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. After she began transitioning in 2007, she was threatened with firing and physical harm. Her application was refused in late 2009 while a similarly qualified male worker was approved. Tudor won her case despite the DOJ withdrawing its support in October, stating that it will no longer interpret Title VII to cover transgender workers.
(More good news on p. 5)

'Talking about Dying'

CM Hall is hosting an Oregon Humanities Conversation, Talking about Dying, on February 7, 2018 at the Samaritan Center for Health Building (740 SW 9th St, Newport). The event is sponsored by the Central Coast Unitarian Universalist. Participants can reflect on what stories and influences shape their thinking about death and dying and hear perspectives and ideas from fellow community members.

News Bits

The 60-year-old U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is urging Congress to pass legislation protecting LGBTQ workers from employment discrimination in its report, released late last month, entitled "Working for Inclusion: Time for Congress to Enact Federal Legislation to Address Workplace Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Americans." The report is here: http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/LGBT_Employment_Discrimination2017.pdf

The Church of Sweden has voted to use gender-neutral language when referring to God because the entity is likely neither male nor female.

The Church of England has issued a trans-affirming statement to prevent bullying in schools and permission for students to explore their gender identity. The religion has approximately 4,700 schools which must adhere to governmental education standards but may provide instruction in accord with their faith. The updated guidance: All bullying ... causes profound damage, leading to higher levels of mental health disorders, self-harm, depression and suicide."

Good News in the World's Politics



Australia: In a voluntary postal survey, 61.6 percent of respondents from 79.5 percent of the populace supported marriage equality. The Senate has passed marriage equality, and Australia may see same-gender couples marrying by the end of the year. Rainbows at the Sydney Opera House began an official launch into the 40th anniversary of the Sydney

Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a 17-day event ending with a parade on March 3, 2018. One question is what Nick and Sarah Jensen, married for over a decade, will do after promising to divorce if marriage equality comes to the country?



Canada: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has formally apologized to the thousands of LGBTQ members of the military, the public service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who have faced discrimination, lost their jobs and, in some cases, were imprisoned, because of their sexual orientation during the "gay purge" of the last half of the 20th century. Some of the victims are believed to have killed themselves after their careers were ruined.

Germany: The constitutional court has ruled that the country must create a third gender category for people who do not identify as either male or female or were born with ambiguous sexual traits because binary gender designations violate the right to privacy. Lawmakers have until 2018 to either introduce a third gender category or omit gender on public documents. At least eight countries now recognize more than two genders on passports or national ID cards.

Good News in Politics Continues



Oregon: The prison system will provide a transgender inmate with hormone therapy, bras, and women's underwear while considering her transfer to the state's only all-women's prison, according to a settlement. Oregon will also pay Michalle Wright \$167,500 in damages, waive medical fees associated with three suicide attempts, provide counseling, and consider referring her for gender surgery in January if medically necessary. The state prisons have about two dozen transgender inmates.

United States: Judges in two different districts have blocked DDT's order barring transgender people in the military, requiring the Pentagon to "revert to the status quo" set in June 2016 when transgender troops could not be dismissed for their gender identity. Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in Washington stated that transgender members of the military who had sued over the change were likely to win their case and that Donald Trump's announcement via Twitter played a part in her decision. "There is absolutely no support for the claim that the ongoing service of transgender people would have any negative effective on the military at all. In fact, there is considerable evidence that it is the discharge and banning of such individuals that would have such effects." More recently, Kollar-Kotelly clarified her ruling by stating that Defense Secretary James Mattis cannot delay the start date of January 1 for openly trans soldiers. She did not remove the ban on using funds for gender reassignment surgery, but Judge Marvin J. Garbis stopped the ban, finding that active-duty service members are "already suffering harmful consequences" from the president's policy. He stated that the ban violates constitutional equal protection guarantees and the rights of service members to medical care. The surgery cost is minimal—about the same cost as one of Trump's weekend trips to Mar-a-Lago.

United States: Sam Clovis withdrew his name as nominee for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientist after being "outed" for his possible involvement in collusion between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign. In addition to Clovis' lack of experience for the job and his anti-science positions, he has said the people make a choice to be LGBTQ, that they do not deserve equal protections, and granting LGBTQ rights may lead to legalized pedophilia.

United States: After the current administration either ignored or trashed LGBTQ rights, it was stunning to see that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson acknowledged the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20 by saying that transgender people "should not be subjected to violence or discrimination, and the human rights they share with all persons should be respected." More of his statement:

"On Transgender Day of Remembrance, the United States honors the memory of the many transgender individuals who have lost their lives to acts of violence. Transgender individuals and their advocates, along with lesbian, gay, bisexual and intersex persons, are facing increasing physical attacks and arbitrary arrests in many parts of the world. Often these attacks are perpetrated by government officials, undermining the rule of law."

Tillerson pledged that the U.S. "remains committed to advancing the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons. These principles are inherent in our own Constitution and drive the diplomacy of the United States."

People Who Make a Difference

An off-year election on November 7 produced amazing results for LGBTQ candidates. At least eight transgender candidates in seven states will be serving in a variety of capacities—on school boards, city councils, and even state legislatures—most of them “firsts” in their states and sometimes the nation.

- ◆ **Danica Roem:** Virginia House of Delegates (right)
- ◆ **Andrea Jenkins** and **Phillipe Cunningham** (below left): Minneapolis City Council
- ◆ **Lisa Middleton:** Palm Springs (CA) City Council
- ◆ **Steph Koontz:** Doraville (GA) City Council
- ◆ **Tyler Titus:** Erie (PA) School Board
- ◆ **Gerri Cannon:** Somersworth (NH) School Board



The *Windy City Times* reported that at least 71 openly LGBTQ candidates ran campaigns in 23 different states with 55 percent of them winning. The Victory Fund (<https://victoryfund.org/election2017/>), which endorses LGBTQ candidates, came out with a two-thirds win rate, citing at least 40 victories of 61 endorsements including:

- ◆ **Jenny Durkan** (right): Seattle’s first lesbian mayor and first woman in 96 years.
- ◆ **Zachary DeWolf:** First openly gay man elected to Seattle’s school board.
- ◆ **Mitzi Johanknecht:** King County’s (WA) first lesbian sheriff.
- ◆ **Vernetta Alston:** Durham (NC) City Council member (one of six new LGBTQ city council members in North Carolina).



An astonishing win came for **Allison Ikley-Freeman** (left), a 26-year-old married lesbian, who beat anti-LGBTQ Brian O’Hara by 31 votes for an Oklahoma Senate seat. Last year, the Democrats spent \$200,000 for that seat and lost by 15 points; this year, the “lightly-funded” Democrat won by 2,234 votes to 2,203 in the conservative area.

These LGBTQ candidates won not because of their sexual orientation and gender identity but because they ran on their issues. For example, Roem’s campaign focused on jobs, schools, and traffic problems; she argued that her opponent, 26-year incumbent Bob Marshall had spent too much of his energy in office tackling social issues like the bathroom bill. <http://www.msnbc.com/the-last-word/watch/danica-roem-on-historic-victory-inclusion-and-equality-won-1090935875859> This interview with Lawrence O’Donnell on MSNBC shows why she won. With excellent qualifications, the LGBTQ candidates worked hard and ran strong campaigns.

Candidates like Roem may face vigorous prejudice when they take office. Terrified of calling Roem a woman, GOP Virginia legislators want to erase gendered language in their proceedings so that they don’t have to refer to her as “Gentlewoman.”

PFLAG Meetings:

The December 13 membership meeting is the Annual Dessert Potluck with lots of leftovers to share and take home as well as exchanging Christmas traditions and giving support to those who struggle during the holidays.

The November PFLAG meeting focused on local and national issues facing the trans community and shared information about school policies and practices regarding LGBTQ students.

School LGBTQ Activities:

Reatha Ryan has resumed her work as guest facilitator at the request of LGBTQ students at NHS.

Eddyville School's Ohana Club will review "I'm an Upstander, Not a Bystander" in December.

Several schools in Lincoln County—including Taft MS & HS, Sam Case, Yaquina View, and Eddyville—have indicated an interest in funding assistance for Kindness Week (see p. 2). Schools have until January 15 to submit their plan/request for funding.

The Coastal Area GSA Annual Conference is scheduled during March or April before the Day of Silence (April 27) and Upstander Week (April 23-27).

OCC PFLAG Calendar

December 11, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

December 13, 6:00-8:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—Annual Dessert Potluck —St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

December 24, 11:00 am: OUT OR Women Nana's for Lunch—NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

January 22-26: Kindness Week (see p. 2)

February 7: "Talking about Dying"—Samaritan Center for Health Building, 750 SW 9th St., Newport (see p. 4)

April 27: Day of Silence

April 23-27: Upstander Week

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.

Media Matters:

Earlier this year, Disney debuted its first same-gender kiss on *Star vs. the Forces of Evil*. Now the animated series features the first male princess, Marco Diaz. As "Princess Turdina," he helps save St. Olga's Reform School for Wayward Princesses from the evil grip of the schoolmaster, Ms. Heinous. One princess asks, "Why does it matter if he's a boy?"



In another Disney first, *Andi Mack* features the channel's first LGBTQ coming-out journey when 13-year-old Cyrus Goodman discovers his sexual orientation beginning on the show's second year premiere. According to Disney, "*Andi Mack* is a story about 'tweens' figuring out who they are."



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.

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