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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

November 2018

Take Action

**Make sure your ballot is delivered by
8:00 pm, November 6!**

During a "lock down" drill at a Stafford County (VA) middle school, a transgender student was forced to sit on the gym bleachers instead of taking refuge in the sex-segregated locker rooms. After a debate among teachers, the student was allowed to sit in the locker room hallway where she would be a target for any shooter. Sign the petition to **demand equal protection for all students** and let's make sure this never happens again. <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/834/616/305/>

Marion County Judge Vance Day, who was suspended for three years for refusing to marry same-gender couples, breaking gun laws, and lying to ethics investigators, **has been denied an appeal** to the U.S. Supreme Court requesting that his suspension be overturned. Because his term expired this year, two people are running for his former position. Day can seek office at the end of his suspension without pay in March 2021 but said he has no plans to run for public office. At this time, Day can practice law. He said that his legal bills of \$1.2 million forced him to sell his home and a 50-percent share in a Salem building. Luckily for him, a group has raised \$2 million for him. https://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2018/10/post_300.html

Applications for scholarships from the Pride Foundation and The Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA) are due on January 11. These scholarships, awarded to build leadership and promote diversity in LGBTQ communities, may be used for any post-secondary education including nontraditional degrees, trade or technical programs, community colleges, four-year public and private universities, and accredited certificate programs. Information: <https://pridefoundation.org/find-funding/scholarships/application/>

Fluid Gender Makes Fed Sex Proposal Ridiculous

When Donald Trump campaigned for the presidency, he promised to protect LGBTQ people. He has consistently broken this promise, and his latest act is to match his world view by erasing the existence of transgender people. A federal memo revealed the plan to remove federal recognition of gender identity in 1.4 million U.S. residents by changing the definition of gender to “genitalia at birth.” Anyone questioning this definition could be forced to submit to genetic testing.

The man behind this refutation of science is anti-LGBTQ rights Roger Severino, director of the Office of Human Rights at Health and Human Services, who wants to establish a legal definition of sex under Title IX based on genitalia in all government agencies including departments of Education, Justice, Health and Human Services, and Labor.

Beyond the loss of freedom for transgender people, the science shows that the fluidity of gender makes this proposal a ridiculous travesty:

- ◇ “Genetic men” with Klinefelter syndrome possess an extra X chromosome (XXY) or, more rarely, two or three extra Xs (XXXY, XXXXY). Sometimes genetics gives them an extra Y chromosome (XYY).
- ◇ “Genetic women” with Turner syndrome have only one X chromosome, and “genetic women” (XX) with congenital adrenal hyperplasia may have masculinized genitals.
- ◇ Similarly, “genetic men” (XY) with complete androgen insensitivity syndrome fail to develop masculine sexual characteristics.
- ◇ Children with Guevedoces appear to be female until their penis and testicles descend when they are about 12 years old.
- ◇ Other people may have XX chromosomes in some cells and XY in others.
- ◇ Intersex people don’t fit typical biological definitions of male or female.

Scientists now believe that almost everyone has genetically distinct cells of a sex that fails to match the rest of their body. Sex is a spectrum, as this scientific article shows. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/sex-redefined-the-idea-of-2-sexes-is-overly-simplistic1/> (In a “silver lining” of this bigotry, the proposal will likely broaden the education of people about the intricacies of biology.)

In updating gender markers on passports, the State Department has already exchanged the term “gender” with “sex change,” noting that a “sex marker may not match the gender in which you identify.” Last year, LGBGQ pages were taken off the State Department’s website.

Trump has also expanded his drive to erase gender to the entire world. At the UN, the U.S. tried to remove references to “gender” from human rights documents that deal with “social, humanitarian, and cultural” rights because the term is “politically correct.” This position toward erasing gender has allied the U.S. with Russia and the Islamic states.



Matthew Shepard has reached his resting place at Washington National Cathedral 20 years after he was brutally murdered in a hate crime in Wyoming. Shepard was beaten, tortured, and left to die near Laramie on October 6, 1998 and died six days later. He would have been 41 years old. After a service attended by 4,000 people, his ashes were interred at the cathedral’s crypt in a private family ceremony. [Left: Matthew’s parents, Judy and Dennis Shepard.]

Politics on Our Side



Philadelphia: Edie Windsor, a native Philadelphian, was the first victor in the Supreme Court for national marriage

equality when her lawsuit resulted in striking down the so-called “Defense of Marriage Act” in 2013. In 2015 the high court moved forward to recognize national marriage equality. The city where the Constitution was signed has now renamed a street “Edie Windsor Way.”

Washington, D.C.: October 30 celebrated the 32nd year of the annual Halloween High Heel Race, and Mayor Muriel Bowser’s office announced it will pay for over 100 drag queens to have a footrace in high heels. A gay bar has been the lead organizer for almost two decades, and the city has provided street closures and emergency personnel for the event. This year, it becomes the official sponsor.

Colorado: Fifteen years ago, Dean LeFleur had a commitment ceremony with his boyfriend. Now a Jefferson County court requires a divorce for their separation, ruling that a commitment ceremony constitutes a legal marriage in the state. LeFleur’s ex received a substantial amount of his assets, alimony, and \$30,000 in court fees. Colorado is a “common law marriage” state with no provision for time that a couple lives together.

Hawaii: The state Supreme Court made the latest ruling to apply parentage equally to same-gender couples, this time for a parent attempting to avoid parental responsibility. Legally married in Washington, D.C., LC and MG then moved to Hawaii where MG pursued fertility treatment while LC was stationed overseas. LC served MG with divorce papers

a month before MG gave birth in November 2015 and asked the court to disestablish paternity, stating that she had not consented to the insemination. Hawaii ruled that LC was defined as the child’s legal parent because she and MG were still married during conception and the state’s marriage equality law is gender neutral. Earlier rulings agreeing on equal parentage for same-gender couples come from Arizona, Maryland, Mississippi, and New York. Pennsylvania disagreed.

North Carolina: A federal judge ruled that six state residents can continue to challenge the law prohibiting cities and counties from passing non-discrimination measures keeping transgender people out of bathrooms that match their gender identity. He also ruled that HB 142 does not regulate restroom access in any fashion.” NC Values Coalition executive director Tami Fitzgerald is claiming that other laws will discriminate against transgender individuals’ use of bathrooms, an odd statement for someone who fought to preserve HB 142.

Wisconsin: A jury awarded two transgender women \$780,000 after their employer, the state government, refused them health insurance. A judge had also ruled that the state violated federal nondiscrimination laws because the University of Wisconsin denied Shannon Andrews and Alina Boyden health insurance because of their gender identity.

Texas: Gov. Greg Abbott said that he won’t push bills restricting bathroom access to transgender people. His political opponent in the purple state is lesbian and former sheriff Lupe Valdez. Abbott’s 2017 bathroom bill was unpopular, and North Carolina’s similar HB2 may have played a part in former GOP governor Pat McCrory losing to Democrat Ray Cooper.

School Climate/LGBTQ Students

The tenth GLSEN biennial school climate survey examines the unique experiences facing LGBTQ students in the US middle & high schools.

Nearly 9 in 10 LGBTQ students experienced harassment or assault based on personal characteristics including sexual orientation, gender expression, gender, religion, race/ethnicity, and disability.

Over a third of LGBTQ students missed at least one entire day of school in the past month because they felt unsafe, and a tenth missed four or more days in the past month.

Over 6 in 10 LGBTQ students faced LGBTQ-related discriminatory policies or practices at school.

Many students did not have access to LGBTQ-related school supports, such as inclusive curriculum and supportive policies.

In 2017, we have seen fewer positive changes regarding victimization, discrimination and school supports than we had seen in the 2015 survey installment. Furthermore, as related to gender identity and expression, in some cases, the school environment appears to have become even more hostile over the past years.

The complete GLSEN report: <https://www.glsen.org/article/2017-national-school-climate-survey-1>

Sunday of Love: Trinity United Methodist Church, Toledo



On October 21, Sunday of Love was celebrated to recognize Trinity UMC's 10-year anniversary as a reconciling congregation welcoming and affirming everyone regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This Sunday was filled with celebration, color, queerness, and of course love! Everyone was welcomed no matter the faith or lack of faith. Organized and led by LGBTQ people in the congregation and community, it was a queer service led by queer people.

TUMS has been among the most openly welcoming and inclusive of the 10 Welcoming Congregations in Lincoln County. It includes not only LGBTQ members but also gay and lesbian clergy in leadership roles for many years. Thanks to TUMS for showing what Love is Love can mean!!

Coming Out is Holy

On Sept. 15 PFLAG Chair Jeanne St. John, Ph.D, and the Rev. Gavin Shumate, MD presented this topic at the monthly Canterbury Forum session in Waldport. Representing progressive Christians and others, this group of 50+ learned the basics of LGBTQ 101 and how many churches have misinterpreted the "lobber passages" that are often used to threaten and shame LGBTQ people.

The program included (1) four dimensions of human sexuality; (2) the debunking of a few of the Bible's "lobber texts;" (3) current state of LGBTQ marriage and ordination in Christian denominations; (4) increasing level of threat to LGBTQ; (5) ways churches can be truly welcoming to the LGBTQ community.

The 90 min. presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZReyjVDzW-k>

The PowerPoint presentation: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ZC23lFjY1Rj22BLOC9S-T0ygZ3DRKUpPrXxT6UxjIOA/edit?usp=sharing>

More Good LGBTQ News from the World

United States: Despite the federal government’s attempt to destroy LGBTQ rights, 78 cities—up 10 cities from last year—have gained perfect ratings in advancing inclusive policies during the past year. In 2012, the first year of the index, only 11 cities achieved this record. Tougher benchmarks, including protection from bullying and “conversation therapy” as well as access to single-user restrooms for all genders—made perfect scores even more difficult. Cities in conservative states are represented at the top, and Birmingham (AL) is the first state in the Deep South on the list.

- ◇ 56 cities expanded their equal employment opportunity policies to include sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
- ◇ 20 cities extended nondiscrimination requirements to businesses with whom they contract.
- ◇ 147 cities now offer transgender-inclusive health care benefits to city employees.
- ◇ 97 cities offer equal benefits to the same or different sex domestic partners of city employees and their legal dependents.

The report: https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/MEI-2018-FullReport.pdf?_ga=2.117973056.852879200.1539005714-833398706.1538515520

United States: LGBTQ candidates—618 of them!—ran in every state this year, and at least 399 advanced to the general election. The Victory Fund endorsed 272 openly LGBTQ candidates in 2018, with 226 of those candidates on the ballot this month.

Tokyo: This Japanese city banned discrimination against the LGBTQ community before hosting the 2020 Summer Olympics to meet the Olympic Charter’s inclusion standards.

Switzerland: The penalty for trans- and homophobia, now equal to racism, can put a guilty person in prison for up to three years. Although same-gender couples lack the same legal adoption, welfare, and taxes as heterosexual couples because of no marriage equality, discrimination against LGBTQ people is illegal.

Uruguay: The nation’s congress has passed a bill that requires the country to pay for hormone treatments and transition surgery for transgender people and sets aside one percent of government jobs for transgender people. The bill also provides reparations in the form of a pension for persecuted transgender people during the country’s 12-year dictatorship. In 2013, Uruguay became the second Latin American country behind Argentina to legalize marriage equality.

Follow-up: In the first openly gay wedding for British royalty, Ivar Mountbattan (right), Queen Elizabeth II’s cousin, married James Coyle on September 22, 2018 in an intimate ceremony with 60 friends and family members at a private chapel at Bridwell Park, Mountbatten’s home.



People Who Make a Difference



Alexander Duarte, gay, attended the homecoming dance at Valley High School in Santa Ana (CA) on National Coming Out Day with straight friend, football captain **Erick Pineda**. "It's very important for me to be going to Homecoming with Alexander because I'm setting an example for not only my school, but also my community," Pineda said. He said that he wanted to stamp out stigma around friendships between straight and gay men. The students watching Duarte ask Pineda cheered.

Andrew Keenan-Bolger has been blessed with the appearance of a rainbow many times after his mother died when he was 16 years old. It showed up again when the Broadway actor married *Daily Beast* writer **Scott Bixby**. Keenan-Bolger is always comforted by the rainbow because he connects it to the presence of his mother.



Kyrsten Sinema, a U.S. representative, is almost equal in the polls for the U.S. Senate with Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ) in the seat that GOP Jeff Flake leaves. Winning would make Sinema the first openly bisexual U.S. senator and a senator who might help take back the senate for the Democrats. McSally has supported several bills that discriminate against LGBTQ people. Sinema co-chaired the LGBT Equality Caucus and co-sponsored the Equality Act to ban anti-LGBTQ discrimination in some federal law.



Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, a famous French post-impressionist painter in the late 1800s, revealed the intimacy of sex workers when lesbianism played a major role in the Decadent subculture typified by writings of Verlaine and Catulle Mendès as well as images of Rops and de Feure. The movement was developed in opposition to bourgeois values of the Third Republic and intense French nationalism.

Coastal Queers & Peers FB Group Re-organizing

Calling all LGBPTQQIAA folks who are looking for queer life on the Central Oregon Coast.

This is a social—in real life—group that includes happy hours, brunches, karaoke, dinners, Mr. Bill's trivia, and more.

Coastal Queers & Peers supports Out Oregon Coast and is also meant to appeal to folks who are looking to create more of a "social life" on the coast.

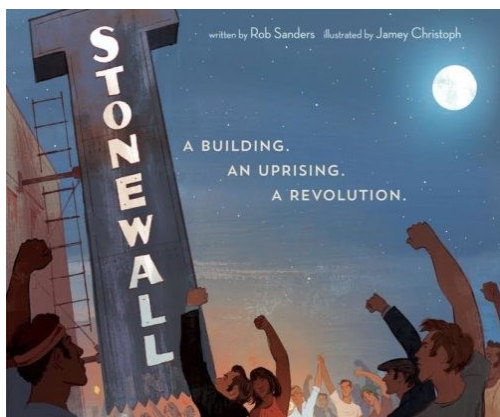
While open to all, it also provides a networking opportunity for LGBPTQ+ working professionals in our coastal communities.

Anyone can join the Queers & Peers FB, but it's private, not public. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/667998390254869/>

Media Matters:

Nicole Maines, hero of the transgender battle to use the appropriate high school bathroom in Maine, is now TV's first transgender superhero in *Supergirl* when Nia Nal, reporter in training, is revealed as Dreamer. The book *Becoming Nicole* followed the struggle of Maines and her family for her rights. She has also been in the HBO documentary *The Trans List* and the USA Network *Royal Pains*.

In April 2019, Rob Sanders' picture book *Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution* with illustrations by Jeremy Christoph



uses the perspective of the Stonewall Inn to tell the story of the riots in the New York bar that

moved the LGBTQ rights forward. Sanders' book *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag* was released earlier this year. He said, "I was 10 years old when the Stonewall uprising occurred. Men and women hundreds of miles away from my home in Springfield, Missouri, were standing up and fighting for my rights — fighting to allow me to be who I wouldn't know I was for years to come."

OCC PFLAG Calendar

October – LGBTQ History Month

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

November 14, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting, PFLAG's Annual Transgender Observance led by Newport High GSA Club—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

November 25, 11:00 am: OUT OR Women at 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:

Oregon Central Coast PFLAG
PO Box 2172
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