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Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well- being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gendered 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

September 2015

Take Action

Dalton Maldonado, basketball starting point-guard at Betsy Lane High School (Kentucky), came out as gay during his senior year. When he opened his yearbook at the end of the year, he discovered that his name was left off the list of basketball players, and his photo did not appear next to those of other seniors. Floyd County Schools Superintendent Henry Webb called the omission a “human error.” This petition asks for an official apology to Maldonado and a reprint of the yearbook by the responsible individuals.
<http://forcechange.com/146094/reprint-yearbook-that-excluded-athlete-based-on-his-sexuality/>

Candelarias Bakery in Mesquite, a Dallas (TX) suburb) was the first business to use the stickers from the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce’s “Welcome Everyone” campaign. Area vendors are encouraged to show support for the LGBT community with stickers reading "LGBT WE Zone" and emblazoned with rainbow patterns.



OCCC PFLAG Honors Dan Beck as PFLAG Hero

Six years ago, I interviewed Dan Beck when he was declared one of five 2009 Basic Rights Oregon Equality Champions. This month, he is being honored at the September PFLAG meeting as a PFLAG Hero, and I was able to catch up with Dan to see what has happened during the past six years.

On December 7, 2012, Dan's life took a difficult turn when his long-time partner, Rick Brisette, suffered a debilitating stroke which resulted from a genetic disorder. While Rick has recovered most basic functions, Dan has had to take over the many things that they did together, including operating both their business and their Foundation work with the Coastal AIDS Network (CAN).

As a result of Dan's decision and other changes in the community, CAN will be shutting down. HIV Alliance in Eugene, is now providing case management services for HIV+ folk in Lincoln County. Our county health department will still do testing, but people who test HIV-positive are then referred to the HIV Alliance for case management. One advantage of the change is a broader support base with greater finances and volunteers, but the community-building work to help gay people make better decisions about behavior will be on a more informal basis.

Dan and I talked about the changes in needs for gay people in Lincoln County. Because HIV is no longer a death sentence, people are moving to more urban areas such as Portland to get better health services. In the past, gays with HIV would come to the coast to find end-of-life care. With more gays coming to the county to retire, the demographics of the population are also changing. Dan talked about seeing far fewer HIV cases. When he started, he would see 10 to 20 tests a year; this past year, there was only one, a straight man who tested negative.

A board of six people, four of them local, will discuss what shutting down CAN actually means. The non-profit status will be gone, and board members will discuss changing monthly events because there will no longer be funding for these events.

Dan said, "My world is much smaller now, but I will still do what I can." He plans to stay a part of the LGBT community, but "its needs have changed and so have mine." He talked about how he and Rick look upon the people who they mentored as "our sons," and the couple keeps in touch and take pride in meanings of the word—for success, like a sapling grows into a tree. Lincoln County is a better place because of the work of these two amazing men. Thanks to Dan Beck, PFLAG Hero!

[Go to p. 5 for the earlier story about Dan Beck in the November 2009 issue of the newsletter for the Oregon Central Coast chapter of PFLAG.]

Anti-LGBT Sweet Cakes Morphs into Help for LGBTQ Youth

Laurel and Rachel Bowman-Cryer who recently won their complaint against Sweet Cakes are making the deal very sweet. After the bakery refused to sell a wedding cake to the lesbian couple, the two women joined with Kansas-based Planting Peace to create Sweet Equality Cakes. Located on the same Gresham (OR) property as Sweet Cakes, the new bakery will provide on-the-job training in food preparation, customer service, and management for homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth.

Although Planting Peace previously focused on rainforest conservation, the organization is perhaps best known for the creation of the "Equality House," a home situated across the street from the notorious anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka (KS). Members painted the house in rainbow colors as a visible celebration of LGBT pride.

Politics on Our Side

California: The state Senate has approved a bill to increase filing fees for measures from \$200 to \$2,000 to discourage frivolous ballot questions. After Matt McLaughlin filed an initiative calling for killing everyone who engages in sodomy, Joe Decker proposed the “Shellfish Suppression Act,” based on Leviticus, the same book of the bible that opposes homosexuality, which describes the consumption of “all that have not fins and scales in the seas” an abomination. Violators would face a \$666,000 fine or prison term of six years, six months and six days. The “Intolerant Jackass Act” would require anti-LGBT individuals to attend sensitivity training and donate \$5,000 to an LGBT organization.

Denver (CO): The city council temporarily blocked Chick-fil-A from the Denver International Airport because of the corporation’s position against marriage equality. The issue will be further discussed on September 1. Another stumbling block for the chain is that it would not open on Sundays .

Colorado: The state Court of Appeals ruled that bakers can’t use religious beliefs to refuse services to same-sex couples after a lawsuit against Masterpiece Cakeshop.

Georgia: Fired by Mount de Sales Academy for planning to marry his same-sex partner, former band director Flint Dollar has agreed to a confidential settlement. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission determined that the school’s discrimination was based on Dollar’s sexual orientation.

Illinois: Gov. Bruce Rauner has signed a bill banning therapists from trying to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of a person younger than 18, making Illinois the fourth state in the nation to have this law.

Ohio: The State Supreme Court has issued an opinion that a judge may not opt out of performing all marriages and cannot refuse to marry same-sex couples. Judges “must never permit court staff or court officials under his or her direction or control to engage in discriminatory conduct based on sexual orientation.”

South Carolina: A federal judge ordered Attorney General Alan Wilson to pay over \$135,000

in legal fees for a couple who challenged the state ban on same-sex marriage after the 4th Circuit Court declared it unconstitutional.

Tennessee: Attorney General Herbert Slattery is now recognizing same-sex divorces and changing a form used to determine parental rights. Terms “father” and “mother” have been replaced with “Parent 1” and “Parent 2.”

Texas: U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia has ordered Attorney General Ken Paxton and the state’s acting health commissioner to recognize the surviving spouse, John Stone-Hoskins, on the state death certificate of his spouse, James Stone-Hoskins on risk of contempt.

United States: The D.C. Court of Appeals ruled that the city’s “Bias-Related Crime Act of 1990 applies to any criminal act, including hate-related threats although the statute doesn’t explicitly mention threats in its definition of a hate crime. The case involves threats of bodily harm against a gay male couple. The Crime Act allows a sentence one and a half times greater than if it were not a hate crime.

United States: Not until August 14, 40 days after the Supreme Court ruled that marriage equality is the law of the land, did the 8th Circuit Court formally strike down same-sex marriage bans in South Dakota, Arkansas, and Nebraska.

United States: The White House has created a safe place to use a restroom for people whose gender identity doesn’t align with the traditional male/female binary. The action is especially important because of state laws attempting to prevent transgender people from using the restroom that corresponds with their gender identity. The recent #WeJustNeedToPee campaign, using selfies from single-sex bathrooms, has drawn attention to this problem of transgender people. <https://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/?s=needtopee> photo

Puerto Rico: Over 60 same-sex couples wedded in a mass ceremony in Old San Juan—the first same-sex weddings in this U.S. territory.

Mexico: The country’s Supreme Court ruled a ban against same-sex couples adopting couples is unconstitutional.

The Pentagon's ban on transgender troops may end May 27, 2016!

Comedian John Oliver, HBO's Jon Stewart, addressed LGBT rights, this time addressing discrimination. He even asked all the presidential candidates their positions. <http://dot429.com/articles/6143-last-week-tonight-tackles-on-queer-discrimination>

Michael Rowe reflects on his marriage 30 years ago to Brian McDermid, attitudes at that time, and changes in the last three decades. Get out the tissues because you may end up crying over his blog: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-rowe/some-thoughts-on-my-30th-_b_8021920.html?ir=Gay%20Voices&ncid=newsltushpmsg0000003

Check "2015 Campus Pride Top 25 LGBT-Friendly Colleges & Universities": <http://www.campuspride.org/2015-top-25/>

The Academy of Science of South Africa reports that sexual behavior is "naturally varied" and discrimination "unjustified." There is "no evidence that orientation can be altered by therapy or that being gay is contagious." In addition, the report also negates the idea that people are LGBT because of Western influences. Uganda is considering a new law after its current punitive measures were declared unconstitutional on a technicality.

Photographs of LGBT Support

People of Reykjavik (Iceland), including several children and Mayor Dagur Eggertsson, joined to paint a central street for the annual Gay Pride festival that attracts more than 100,000 visitors, equivalent to about a third of the country's population.



'We Shall Overcome'

Keanan Sargent, the 9-year-old son of Wisconsin state Rep. Melissa Sargent, decided to fight homophobia when he went with his mother, father, and brother to a pride rally in Madison (WI) at the base of the state capitol building. He decided that hateful signs "were hurting people" and stood in front of one sign with a star-shaped balloon. Members of the crowd handed Keanan their balloons, and he stayed in front of the sign. The protester finally left, and Keanan moved on to the next sign, causing that protester to leave. As the crowd sang "We Shall Overcome," he kept blocking the signs, one at a time, until they all left. Fellow attendee Lars Koch took the photo below.



Dan Beck—OCCC PFLAG Hero

It was a dark and stormy night . . . Thus Dan Beck began the tale of how he initiated the Coastal AIDS Network (CAN). As CAN Executive Director and often the only staff member, he constantly works to provide services and support to those living with AIDS and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

And the dark and stormy part? Almost 20 years ago, while commuting between Camas (WA) and Lincoln County and dating his current partner, Rick Brissette, he attended a meeting at an AIDS hospice at Cape Meares. The rest is history.



Dan's humanitarian work goes far beyond CAN. As a young man, he worked with missionaries to provide homes for Panamanians and to provide them with medical care. One of his duties there was to use dug-outs on the narrow canals to haul medical equipment into the area. When he returned home at 21 years old, he became the foster parent for three boys.

During the past 20 years in Lincoln County Dan was a leader in opposition to the highly discriminatory initiatives from the Oregon Citizens Alliance designed to deny rights for gays and lesbians. Proud of the healing in the community after this political fight, he is still frustrated, however, about the "wasted money and energy . . . when there were more important things to support."

Dan's emphasis on building a secure and accepting community for LGBT people includes weekly social activities—movie nights, potlucks, pizza nights, games, etc. —as well as weekly meetings from Pacific City to Waldport. He also helped initiate the annual Iris Pride Festival which included the first AIDS Quilt display on the Oregon Coast.

Dan also helped establish the Lincoln County LGBT Task Force to encourage inter-agency cooperation and communication and has held leadership positions in the local Democratic party.

As Jeanne St.John says, "Daniel Beck has been the glue that holds together the far-flung gay community along the north and central Oregon Coast area."

A vital part of Dan's work is teen outreach. After a gay high school student, bullied by classmates and rejected by his family, committed suicide last year, Dan helped develop the Oregon Central Coast PFLAG chapter, encouraging Jeanne St.John to chair the group.

Dan's most gratifying accomplishment is how he and his partner decided to live proud and out instead of quietly in fear. After the 1995 homophobic killing of two lesbian activists, Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill, in Medford, Dan and Rick determined that they would be "very active, very vocal, very out without rancor as part of the community." "Everything came out of this," Dan said. He encourages everyone to not live in fear, to talk to people. Come to PFLAG meetings, join Gay Straight Alliances (GSA), start one if necessary—be a part of the community, Dan urges.

Quiet, passionate, beautiful, invaluable—these are only a few of the words to describe Dan Beck. We are fortunate to have him in our lives.

[Reprinted from November 2009]

People Who Make a Difference

James Costos (right) is not only the U.S. Ambassador to Spain, but also married to famous designer **Michael Smith** who has worked on homes for Steven Spielberg, Bruce Springsteen, and Cindy Crawford. Soon after Costas' appointment in 2013 he reached out to the LGBT community and hosted roundtables in Madrid to learn more about the experience of being gay in the workplace. While Costos is ambassador, Smith is re-designing the embassy in Madrid.



Wheaties is honoring **Evan Wolfson** (left), president of Freedom to Marry, on a commemorative box.

For a great film, check out HBO's documentary on **Greg Louganis** (below), the Olympic diving champion of the 1980s whose records still stand. *Back on Board: Greg Louganis* shows the fear of homosexuality that caused athletes to lose endorsements even because of rumors. Now an LGBT activist, Louganis supported athletes in the 2014 Olympics in Sochi (Russia) before facing more homophobia while helping athletes at the LGBT Open Games in Moscow.



Last March Timber Creek High School denied 16-year-old **Casey Akers** (above) to make a "promposal" to another girl. Akers decided to lobby the Keller Independent School District (Texas) for LGBT protections. She asked them, "How can a homosexual student feel safe when we are not protected?" Now she's asking the board to put protections into the district handbook. The issue was up for a vote last month, but the superintendent pulled it after two board members protested the vote. It has been remanded to a review committee. One of the opponents spreading inaccurate information is an openly gay man who owns a gay bar and has been with his partner for 23 years. He is the son of one of the most vocal opponents. Akers said the delay gives her the opportunity to "spread awareness about the [issues facing LGBT people] to my peers."

Don't miss PFLAG meeting on September 8 honoring Dan Beck!

PFLAG Youth Present to LCSD

Young PFLAG people continued their presentations on August 10 with LCSD administrators, including principals and vice-principals of all district schools, the superintendent, and other administrative district staff. The purpose was to assist in helping gender non-conforming students in individual schools.

Presenters included Ineka Estabrook, PFLAG co-chair; 20-year-old gender nonforming Harper Woods; McKenzie Figuracion, Newport High School GSA president; Sadie Blanchette, Newport High School GSA vice-president; and Steve Johnson, father of a trans daughter. They provided information about making welcoming and safe policies about restrooms, locker rooms, name changes, bullying policies, etc.

PFLAGers (below) gather for the annual picnic.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

September 2, 7:00 pm: Trans Parents Coffee—Chalet, Newport

September 9, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting: Honoring Dan Beck, PFLAG Hero—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

September 14, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Embarcadero, Newport

September 27, 11:00 am: OUT OR Coast Women's Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

September 28, 7:00 pm: CAN Pizza, All Welcome!—Abby's, Newport

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

Second Tuesday: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email 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 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.



Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my annual membership fee.*

_____ Household (\$35)
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_____ Student/Limited Income (\$15)
_____ Contribution \$ _____

*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

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