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Parents, Families, and  
Friends of Lesbians and  
Gays promotes the health  
and well-being of gay,  
lesbian, bisexual, and  
trans-gender persons,  
their families, and their  
friends through  
SUPPORT to cope with an  
adverse society  
EDUCATION to enlighten  
an ill-informed public  
ADVOCACY to end dis-  
crimination and secure  
equal civil rights.

# Oregon Central Coast Chapter

May 2016

## Contest for HBO's New Film 'Suited'

*Suited*, debuting June 20 on HBO, tells the story of Bindle & Keep, a Brooklyn tailoring company that makes custom suits for gender-nonconforming and transgender clients, following a range of people on the gender spectrum. The film spotlights the intimate journey of coming into a new identity, accepting difference and living bravely in one's own skin.

The "Get SUITED" contest, open to LGBTQ youth ages 13-24, asks entrants to submit their personal thoughts on fashion and identity on video. Winners receive:

- ◆ A tailor-made Bindle & Keep suit for themselves and a friend or family member.
- ◆ An all-expense paid trip to New York.
- ◆ An invitation to meet producers Lena Dunham and Jenni Konner as well as director Jason Benjamin.
- ◆ A photo shoot complete with hair, makeup and professional photographer.
- ◆ A \$5,000 donation made to a charity in the name of the winner from each of the three age categories (13-16, 17-20, 21-24).

More information at [www.getsuitedhbo.com](http://www.getsuitedhbo.com). Video submission entries are due by May 6, and winners will be announced on May 23.

## Note of Thanks

Jeanne St. John, former OCC PFLAG chair and current Historian, wishes to thank everyone for their love, prayers, and volunteer support for her wife, Kae Bates and her. Almost a year ago, Kae was diagnosed with a tumor on her cerebellum and has undergone brain surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation since that time. Chemotherapy has not been successful, and they have decided to end the treatment and concentrate on enjoying the time remaining. They deeply appreciate your generous care and concern and ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

## OCC PFLAG Receives Grant From Equity Foundation

The Equity Foundation, which has furnished grants to PFLAG for several years for the LGBTQ Teen Support Group, has now given another \$2,300 grant. Funding helps provide mini-grants to GSAs, an annual leadership conference, and the support group for LGBT+ teens and their allies that meets weekly at Newport High School. The eight-year-old LGBT Teen Lunch Bunch, led by a volunteer lesbian therapist, meets weekly with 15-20 students. After a two-month hiatus while the school district evaluated school club regulations in response to a religious group meeting on school grounds during school hours, the Lunch Bunch resumed under student leadership with the therapist as a guest speaker. PFLAG no longer officially sponsors the group, but it provides pizza, coordinates with school personnel, and monitors the group's progress.

GSAs in the county have grown considerably this year. Because of a large number of participants, Taft 7-12 GSA was divided between a middle school and a high school club, each with about 15 to 20 members. Waldport grew from one member last year to 20 members this year. Renamed the Upstander Club, the group expanded its focus to bully prevention with a strong LGBT+ focus. Newport High School has tripled its membership, and Edyville Charter School has renewed its effort to create a GSA. Last November's leadership conference brought together six GSAs from five different schools, three different grade levels (middle school through college), and two counties. They shared their ideas, successes, activities, and need for assistance. OCC PFLAG gave \$400 in mini-grants to the clubs.

NHS GSA students also participated in a Trans 101 panel presentation for all Lincoln County School District administrators to discuss gender identity and responses to the challenges that trans students experience. Students requested that all schools begin with identifying gender-neutral restrooms. A local doctor now provides transition services to transgender patients, and OCC PFLAG made an LGBT+ 101 Medical panel presentation to help health providers better serve LGBT+ patients.

With a new out-and-proud transgender student, NHS GSA succeeded in transferring a bathroom to being gender-neutral and provided the school with free transgender bracelets on November's Transgender Day of Remembrance. The transgender student also joined three other GSA members to address the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners about transgender needs and bully prevention efforts at the high school.

In its mission of education, advocacy, and support, OCC PFLAG is using some of the Equity grant for LGBT+ visibility. Through buttons, bracelets, school dances, and events such as Day of Silence, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and Upstanders' Week, youth find support in becoming out and proud and, even more important, safe and supported.

Within the past ten years, Lincoln County has gained GSAs, PFLAG, and highly visible support for LGBT+ people. This year, McKenzie Figuracion, NHS GSA president, is a Loyalty Days princess who will be able to further LGBT+ rights through the speeches that she makes in her "royal" position. Figuracion's coronation ceremony was on April 29.

### Recent OCC PFLAG Activities:

On April 7, the LGBT+ Task Force discussed bully prevention efforts in schools, the PAADA Teen Justice Panels, and Restorative Justice—a three-year Teen Court program in Lincoln County to divert youth from the juvenile justice system.

The Human Rights Campaign held their first *I Am Jazz* Community Reading event on April 28. The picture book tells about Jazz Jennings, a transgender teen, and the campaign encourages the reading of this book to elementary aged students. PFLAG donated five copies of the books for the district's GSAs and encourages student volunteers to borrow the book for reading to classes at local elementary schools.

# *Politics on Our Side*

**Portland (OR):** Mayor Charlie Hales won't travel to Pascagoula (MS) for the commissioning of the new *USS Portland*, a transport vessel being built at the Huntington Ingalls Shipyard, because of Mississippi's new anti-LGBT law, so the ship will travel to him. There will be a ceremony in Mississippi, but the official commissioning in Oregon will be moved in both place and time from May to late 2017.

**Mississippi:** U.S. District Judge Daniel Jordan has ruled that Mississippi's discriminatory ban on allowing same-sex couples to adopt children is unconstitutional. This ruling means that same-gender couples may now adopt children in all 50 states.

**Pennsylvania:** Gov. Tom Wolf signed two executive orders in reaction to the current spate of anti-LGBT laws and bills. Both extend equal protection to LGBT state employees.

**Virginia:** According to a three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, the Gloucester County School District (VA) risks losing federal funding if they ban trans people from bathrooms that match their gender identity. The decision was based on Title IX federal law barring federal funding if people are "denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity." The case was sent back to the lower court with instructions that support the boy's Title IX claim. More about the ruling on p. 5 beside the photo of the plaintiff, Gavin Grimm.

**United States:** The Department of Justice has issued new regulations clarifying guidelines it set in 2012 for the treatment of transgender inmates in prisons. The 2012 guidelines required prison and jail staff to consider inmates' gender identity when deciding where to place transgender inmates, but many prisons continue to follow state

rules that assign inmates housing according to their genitalia. The new DOJ guidelines state that any "written policy or actual practice that assigns transgender or intersex inmates to gender-specific facilities, housing units, or programs based solely on their external genital anatomy" is in violation of the federal standard, which mandates that prisons consider both inmates' gender identity and personal concerns about their safety when assigning them to a housing facility.

In 2011 and 2012, 4 percent of state and federal prison inmates and 3 percent of jail inmates reported being sexually assaulted by other inmates or staff in the previous year. But more than a third of transgender inmates in prisons and a third in jails said they had been sexually assaulted during the same time period. Transgender women housed in men's prisons are at even greater risk for sexual assault. A California study found that nearly 60 percent of transgender women inmates housed in men's prisons reported being sexually assaulted, compared to just 4 percent of non-transgender inmates in men's prison. The BJS estimates that there are 3,200 transgender inmates in US prisons and jails.

The new guidelines are not legally binding but make plain the federal government's stance on the housing of transgender inmates, the National Center for Transgender Equality and Just Detention International said in a joint statement.

**Puerto Rico (WOW!):** The 1st Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that marriage equality is legal in this commonwealth because of the Supreme Court ruling. The decision overturns one from a San Juan judge who determined that the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution doesn't apply in Puerto Rico despite a 1976 Supreme Court decision that the U.S. territory has constitutional rights of due process and equal protection.

## Take Action

In a backlash against the hateful discrimination “bathroom bills” of the South, Massachusetts has proposed a bill to ban discrimination against transgender people in public accommodations.

GOP Gov. Charlie Baker has refused to take a position on the bill and may even veto it. **Ask him to sign** the Transgender Public Accommodations Bill into law if it reaches his desk. [http://act.massdems.org/page/s/tell-baker-support-trans-bill?source=Petition\\_TransBill\\_FullSend\\_link1](http://act.massdems.org/page/s/tell-baker-support-trans-bill?source=Petition_TransBill_FullSend_link1)

Target may not have always been LGBT-friendly in the past, but the company released a statement on April 19 that trans customers are welcome in its stores and free to use the facilities with which they feel comfortable.

The American Family Association has called for a boycott of Target stores, and the Minneapolis-based corporation is facing a Minnesota “bathroom” bill. If you get a chance, **tell Target thanks** for their LGBT support.

Over 1,000 participants will gather in Seattle (WA) on August 4-7 for the 15th annual international **Gender Odyssey Conference**.

Workshops, discussion groups, social events, and entertainment focus on the needs and interests of transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

## From the PFLAG Chair—

Newport High GSA members and PFLAG chair, Ineka Estabrook, presented their annual proclamation of Upstander's Week to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.

“Upstanders not Bystanders” is the bully prevention motto to encourage people to stand up to bullying that they see.

This year, the NHS GSA extended information about their efforts to be Upstanders to transgender students: gender neutral bathroom, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and transgender buttons and bracelets to increase awareness.

Their presentation to the high school was the theme of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. They teamed with the school newsletter, school counselor, and principal to explain how to help struggling people. Activities included a school assembly, tabling during lunch, and the Day of Silence. The county commissioners were receptive and supportive of the students, deploring the “bathroom bills” popping up in other states.



[Left to right: Rycki, Amelia, McKenzie, Estabrook, and Casidy. ]

# U.S. Fights over Recent ‘Bathroom Laws’

After gaining marriage equality, some LGBT people breathed a sigh of relief, but a conservative backlash to these rights brought “religious liberty” laws legalizing business and government discrimination against anyone. The two poster children of these hate laws—Mississippi and North Carolina—are the canary in the coal mine. Tennessee now has a law allowing counselors to deny services based on their “strongly held beliefs.” It is the only state in the country to invalidate the American Counseling Association’s Code of Ethics. Can these laws survive a constitutional test and allow states to continue receiving federal funding?

In North Carolina, the first to pass one of these laws, large business boycotts are threatening the state’s lagging economy, but the state has suffered unexpected repercussions. For example, people there no longer have access to XHamster.com. Until this boycott, I hadn’t known about the porn site, but I discovered that pornography, much of it using LGBT people, is more popular in the southern states than the rest of the country. The South overwhelmingly prefers the “lesbian” category. Research shows that states identifying as more religious and conservative are also more apt to search for sex online.

ALSC, the children’s services division of the American Library Association, has also canceled its 2016 National Institute scheduled in Charlotte (NC), costing ALA between \$8,000 and \$15,000. This unprecedented action is in response to the state’s new law that “undermines civil rights and the fundamental principles upon which libraries are founded.”

A law of physics states that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction; that’s what young people are doing—fighting back. Last month, a GSA succeeded in opening the first multi-stall gender-inclusive restroom in the LA Unified School District at Santee Educational Complex after working on a three-month campaign. Students collected 700 signatures from classmates and teachers, posted campaign flyers around the schools, and held a rally in front of the campus. All from economically disadvantaged families, about 93% of the student body is Latino, and another six percent are black. [Above: Student organizers who led the campaign for a gender-neutral restroom.]



When the South Carolina Senate committee considered an anti-trans bill, transgender teens Grayson and Dex, both 13 years old, showed unbelievable bravery by testifying against the bill. They explained how the “bathroom bill” requiring transgender kids to use a separately designated bathroom at school would endanger their health and lives. Dex said, “When someone found out that my friend Denny was transgender ... he ended up being assaulted just because one random stranger found out. And I couldn’t imagine what he would face if he had to come out to the whole school because he had to use the wrong restroom.”

In Virginia, Gov. Terry McAuliffe vetoed a “religious freedom” bill, explaining that the state’s and nation’s laws already provide the same protections as in the bill. It was one of nine discriminatory bills filed this year in Virginia, an unprecedented number.

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## More information about recent discrimination laws:

<https://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2016/04/29/thanks-to-the-bathroom-police-no-one-is-safe/>

<https://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2016/04/30/bathroom-laws-endanger-transgender-people-take-action/>

# People Who Make a Difference

Former U.S. Sen. **Harris Wofford**, 90, is engaged to marry Matthew Charlton. Married for almost 50 years to a woman, he fell in love with Charlton five years after his wife died in 1996. The former adviser to President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. married on April 30.



**Hunter Schafer**, 17, is one of the plaintiffs in the ACLU lawsuit challenging the North Carolina bill preventing her from using the women's restroom. She started transitioning a few years ago and is now a proud transgender advocate and visual artist at N.C. School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. Schafer is one of the people who the law would force into the men's bathroom.

**McCartney**, 7, and his 5-year-old sister took a stand at a rally on behalf of their transgender friend who is the target of a the new North Carolina law. He marched because his best friend is transgender and couldn't attend in order to keep her privacy. Cheers for McCartney!



High school transgender student **Gavin Grimm** may be able to use the bathroom that matches his gender identity, thanks to a ruling from a 4th Circuit Court three-judge panel. Four other states—Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia—are covered by the same court that found the Gloucester County, (VA) School Board violated Title IX, a federal law that bars sex discrimination. The school district plans to appeal the ruling to the full appeals court.

## Volunteers Needed!!!

Volunteers—teachers, teen assistants, kitchen assistance, presenters, and more—are needed for Peace Village, August 8-12. This summer camp for students in grades 1-6 teaches children about the celebration of diversity, conflict resolution, and restorative justice. People interested in volunteering or involving their children may contact Rhonda Harman at [rhondatheriviter@gmail.com](mailto:rhondatheriviter@gmail.com).

PFLAG donated \$300 to Taft 7-12 to carry out an Olweus survey to ascertain the state of bullying in their school --if students feel safe, where bullying is happening, how much bullying occurs at the school, who is being bullied, whether staff is dealing with existing bullying, etc.

Below Ineka Estabrook presents the check to the Taft statistics class that performed an initial survey showing the need for further investigation. Taft's survey will be compared to results from the Olweus' international survey.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

### May 2-6: Teacher Appreciation Week

**May 4, 7:00 pm:** Trans Support Group and Trans Parents Support Group—Atonement Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Coast Hwy., Newport [**Please note new location!**]

**May 10, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

**May 11, 6:00-7:30 pm:** PFLAG Meeting, Discussion about Pros and Cons of Visibility—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**May 22, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Coast Women's Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

**August 8-12:** Peace Village

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The PFLAG OCC Basic Needs Grants provides 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 [pflag-occ@gmail.com](mailto:pflag-occ@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  
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