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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.

**Q is used as an inclusive term for the sexual minority LGBTQ+ spectrum.**

# **Oregon Central Coast Chapter**

**March 2020**

## **Taking Action**

**Transgender students may use locker rooms and bathrooms of their gender identity in Dallas (OR), according to a ruling from the 9th Circuit Court.** Throughout the country, courts have concluded that federal civil rights laws protect transgender students against discrimination, and the Supreme Court refused to review a similar case in May 2019. The Dallas decision: <http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2020/02/12/18-35708.pdf>

**A Lincoln County jury found an unemployed Idaho man guilty of first-degree bias crime, second-degree assault, and harassment for beating a transgender woman who used a woman's bathroom at a park north of Newport (OR).** He received a 70-month sentence—almost six years—for a first-degree bias crime, second-degree assault, and harassment in the August 24 attack that shattered Lauren Jackson's jaw and fractured her skull.

**Parents, students, and local councilmembers protested** after two popular teachers engaged to their same-gender partners resigned from Kennedy Catholic High School in Burien (WA). The archdiocese claimed that the resignations were voluntary but later admitted that it was lying, that the teachers were forced out because of their sexual orientation.

## **Q Youth Group in Siletz—Page 2**

**Oregon Central Coast PFLAG has been chosen as the recipient of The Equity Award for Building Community from the Oregon chapter of the Northwest Pride Foundation:** <https://pridefoundation.org/region/oregon/>

**The award will be presented at The Equity Awards on March 21 (5:30 -10:00 pm at VT's The Loft at 8th Avenue, Portland). Tickets are \$150 at <https://pridefoundation.org/get-involved/events/equityawards/>**

## Valentine's Day Brought Camaraderie, Joy



*Above:* A look at the PFLAG “Love Is Love” celebration goodies!  
*Above right:* Claire Hall and Jeanne St. John (right) enjoy the event.  
*Below right:* Part of the Love Is Love cake was shared by people at the Overnight Shelter in Newport.

## Are You Two-Spirit Or LGBTQ?

Community Health invites you to  
a safe and confidential space for  
queer youth!

Open to all youth in the Siletz  
and surrounding area.

Siletz Clinic Yurt  
Thursdays 3:30-5pm

Transportation is being provided to youth in Siletz,  
Toledo, and Newport.

# Politics on Our Side

**Track current Q bills:** <https://www.freedomforallamericans.org/2020-legislative-tracker/>

**California:** Gov. Gavin Newsom pardoned activist Bayard Rustin for his 1953 conviction of “sex perversion” (sodomy) and announced a new fast-track pardon process for others convicted of consensual same-gender encounters between adults. Rustin organized the 1963 civil rights March on Washington.

**Indiana:** A panel of GOP appointees in the 7th Circuit Court ruled that the state must treat same-gender married couples the same as opposite-gender ones when determining parents on a birth certificate. Indiana had refused to list the non-biological mother of a child born to her female spouse on the birth certificate although the state lists a non-biological father for a child born to his wife. The ruling also covers Illinois and Wisconsin.

Lambda Legal is arguing similar cases for children born abroad to legally married same-gender couples because the State Department maintains that these children are “born out of wedlock.”

**Missouri:** After three years in court, police officer Keith Wildhaber settled his discrimination lawsuit with the St. Louis County police department for \$10.25 million. He ranked highly on tests to be a lieutenant, but he was passed over for promotion 23 times because he is gay. After he filed his lawsuit, he was transferred to night shift on the other side of the county.

Wildhaber also said that Police Chief Jon Belmar cultivated a culture of discrimination. In 2019, a jury ordered the police department to pay almost \$20 million in damages as an example to stop discrimination. St. Louis County maintained that sexual orientation

discrimination is legal in Missouri. Belman retired, and Wildhaber heads up a new diversity unit in his promotion to lieutenant.

**New York:** Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that a Brooklyn park will be renamed for Marsha P. Johnson, a trans woman activist and co-founder of the world’s first trans organization, STAR, with Sylvia Rivera. Johnson was a Q icon after the Stonewall Riots. The renaming of East River State Park in the Williamsburg neighborhood makes it the first New York park named after a Q person.

**Ohio:** A professor of Religious Philosophy at Shawnee State University lost his free speech case after he claimed the right to misgender transgender students. He argued that he had the right to violate the public school’s non-discrimination policy because of his Christian belief that gender, fixed at conception, cannot be changed. Despite help from the SPLC-designated hate group Alliance Defending Freedom, a federal court dismissed his claim, saying that the First Amendment does not protect misgendering others as free speech.

**Virginia:** Democratic lawmakers walked out of the legislature after a GOP-invited pastor denounced marriage equality in his prayer. The pastor’s non-denominational church believes in speaking in tongues and casting out demons.

**United States:** On Jan. 31, a federal magistrate judge recommended striking down as unconstitutional the U.S. Social Security Administration’s denial of survivor’s benefits to surviving same-sex partners who were barred from marrying by discriminatory state marriage bans. The 2018 case, *Thornton v. Saul* (originally *Thornton v. Berryhill*) in Washington, now goes to a federal district judge.

## News Bits

In Britain, U.S. evangelist Franklin Graham was turned away from all seven venues he planned—Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Liverpool, Milton Keynes, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Sheffield—because of his homophobic and Islamophobic comments. He hasn't found a place in London.

Thirty-five corporations including Amazon, Dell, Nike, and IKEA and 107 small businesses are calling on Tennessee legislators to reject five proposed anti-Q bills.

The Laramie County School District #1 unanimously agreed to not ban the youth book *Drama* by Raina Telgemeier. The complaint was that it had Q characters.

The American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia (ACLU-WV) is investigating the removal of *Prince & Knight*, a picture book with a same-gender love story, from the Upshur County Public Library. In November, the ACLU-WV wrote the library's board of directors that its removal because of gay content violates the First Amendment rights of library patrons.

American Airlines will permit customers to self-identify as non-binary designations, using "U" or "X" when flying, and has worked with Q organizations to train employees with these updates. Training includes respect for travelers' preferred pronouns such as "they/them" and "ze/zir." United was the first member of Airlines for America (A4A) to allow travelers not to identify as specifically male or female. Delta, Alaska, and Southwest plan to follow AA's example.

## Good News around the World

**Northern Ireland:** On their sixth anniversary, Robyn Peoples, 26, and Sharni Edwards, 27, made history by being the first same-gender couple to marry in Northern Ireland. The country's lawmakers' extension of marriage equality brings the region into line with the remainder of the UK.



**Switzerland:** By an almost two-thirds majority, voters approved a law banning discrimination because of sexual orientation. After Parliament expanded the country's anti-discrimination law to a person's sexual orientation, opponents, who objected to their right to freedom of opinion, gathered signatures to force a referendum reversing the law. Voters rejected the referendum and supported the law by 63.1 percent to 36.9 percent; only three of the 26 cantons (states) had majorities supporting discrimination. People cannot be turned away from public facilities because of their sexual orientation. Gender identity is not covered in the law banning discrimination.

## Gender Identity Comes from Genes, Brain

A new peer-reviewed study finding genetic differences relating gender identity and brain development shows that a person's gender identity is an interplay among multiple genes as well as environmental and societal factors instead of variation within a single gene. Study co-author J. Graham Theisen, an obstetrician/gynecologist and a researcher at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, found 21 "rare" variants in 19 genes, in pathways in the brain associated with the sex hormone estrogen.

The article published in *Scientific Reports* explains that the pathways are considered important for shaping whether the brain is masculine or feminine. Before and after birth, the genes help decide when estrogen is released, which contributes to masculinization of the brain. People assigned male at birth but who later identify as female may not go through this process of masculinization. Approximately 0.5 to 1.4 percent of people assigned male at birth and 0.2 to 0.3 percent of those assigned female at birth will develop gender dysphoria.

# Anti-Q Discrimination Harms Health

A meta-analysis of 300 scientific studies in the U.S. shows overwhelming evidence that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity damages the health of Q people. A connection was found in 95 percent of the studies, and 82 percent found “unambiguous evidence” in the association between discrimination and “harms to the health”—including depression, anxiety, suicide, PTSD, and other mental health disorders. Physical problems included substance use, heart disease, and high blood pressure.

In states implementing “license to discriminate” laws, “the proportion of sexual minority adults reporting mental distress increased by 10.1 percentage points.” These effects are “compounded” for Q people of color, queer youth, and transgender people.

**All 50,000 panels and 54 tons of the NAMES Project’s AIDS Memorial Quilt are going home to San Francisco** to be in the permanent care of the National AIDS Memorial Grove (NAMG), a non-profit that maintains a 10-acre place of remembrance in Golden Gate Park. The NAMES’ “Center for Social Conscience,” which will fight for human rights arising from the AIDS epidemic, hopes to serve as a platform for social justice.

The Quilt Archives—200,000 items such as “biographical records, correspondence, photographs, tributes, epitaphs, news clippings, and artifacts submitted by panel makers that add context about the lives memorialized on the quilt panels” and chronicles about the making and care of the quilt itself—will be housed at the Library of Congress. Q activist Cleve Jones created the idea for the quilt while attending an annual candlelight tribute for assassinated gay politician Harvey Milk on November 27, 1985. Milk died in 1978.

Protests led to Delta Air Lines’ returning Q scenes censored from in-flight movies *Booksmart* and *Rocketman*. Passengers noted missing gay kisses and sex scenes and censored terms such as “vagina” and “lesbian.” In *Booksmart*, a teen comedy, the lesbian scene is important to the plot, and *Rocketman*, a biopic about Elton John, had lost a kiss between two men while retaining a violent scene of John being abused.

For the past year, Wilton Manors (FL), with an all Q city commission, has celebrated the Q community with this gayly painted car (right) rolled out for community events. The back window says “Policing with Pride.”



Since 2013, Miami Beach has had a squad car with “POLICE” in rainbow hues. The Ford Crown Victoria is used at community events such as the annual Miami Beach Pride festivities and Veteran’s Day parade.

# People Who Make a Difference



**Sanna Marin** is Finland's new prime minister, the youngest government leader in the world at the age of 34, and the daughter of two lesbians. The topic of homosexuality was taboo at school when she grew up, but her mother made her feel she could do anything. She said, "For me, people have always been equal."

**Megan Rapinoe**, lesbian co-captain of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team this year, has been named the *Sports Illustrated* Sportsperson of the Year after her team won the Women's World Cup in France. In 2019, she and her teammates sued the U.S. Soccer Federation for pay discrimination against women. The fourth woman to receive this accolade in the magazine's 66-year-old history, she also helps former First Lady Michelle Obama with the voter participation initiative.



Two street performers, **Julian Roel and Augie Bello**, music students at the New School in Manhattan, decided to drown out the hate speech of a preacher speaking at Union Square Park. Filmmaker **Nicolas Heller** caught their good deed, and the video went viral.

**Robin Stevenson**, lesbian author of Q books, spoke to about 100 adults and children at Glenbard West High School (Glen Ellyn, IL) after Longfellow Elementary (Wheaton, IL) canceled a visit from her a month earlier. The Canadian writer had not intended to talk about the Q content of her books at the canceled visit. When someone at Glenbard West asked about the subject, however, she did discuss the books and her experiences about not telling anyone she is a lesbian until she went to college. After the Wheaton cancellation, a district student contacted Stevenson about being afraid of coming out as a lesbian because of the community's homophobic comments from adults. Businesses and organizations helped fund Stevenson's visit to Glen Ellyn. Stevenson's new book, *Kid Activists: True Tales of Childhood from Champions of Change*, includes Harvey Milk.



Using rainbow umbrellas, parents and other Q supporters protected young people performing in a fundraising drag show at the Mile High Comics store in Colorado from violent fascist groups such as Proud Boys. Drag For All Ages raises money for a scholarship fund.

## OCC PFLAG Receives Pride Award

Kim Soggee, Regional Philanthropy Officer, Oregon, Pride Foundation, announced that OCC PFLAG will receive the group's Equity Award for Building Community at its gala on March 21.

Soggee wrote that OCC PFLAG's award is "to honor an organization who is working to meet the critical and pressing needs that our community is facing now, especially those that are newly emerging and/or are focusing on issues or communities that have not been historically resourced and/or adequately addressed."

She added: "Oregon Central Coast PFLAG, for so many reasons, absolutely epitomizes this, and I am thrilled that you all will be recognized for the important contributions you've made."

### The following letter came with a donation for OCC PFLAG. Thank you!

I live in Lincoln city and my activist days are behind me but I wanted to support the local PFLAG because I have so many friends in the community and I know they feel a little threatened by our current political climate. I wish all of you the best as you work to make the world a better place.—Margaret

## Media Matters:

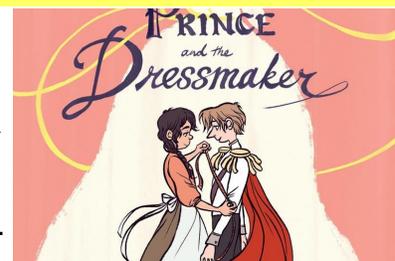
The songwriters behind Disney's Frozen plan the first children's feature film with a queer protagonist in a musical adaptation of Jen Wang's graphic novel *The Prince and the Dressmaker*. At 16, Prince Sebastian, who feels genderqueer or genderfluid, wants to create and wear dresses, but his clueless parents want to find him a bride. His relationship with a dressmaker changes his life.



Mariko Tamaki's graphic novel *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me* was selected as an ALA Printz Honor Book as one of the best young adult books of the year. It depicts Q characters in a story about high school relationships.

Netflix is rebooting the 90's cartoon "Rocko's Modern Life" with a movie that will feature a story arc about transgender people.

After four years, the Unicode Consortium, the decision-maker for emoji, decided to allow the transgender flag and symbol in 2020.



## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**March 1, 11:00 am:** Out Oregon Coast Breakfast at Newport Café—Newport

**March 10, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBT & Allies Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Pacific Café, Olive St. north of PAC

**March 11, 6:00-7:30 pm:** PFLAG Meeting—Gender and Trans Issues—St. Stephens, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**March 13, 5:00-7:00 pm:** Trans Support Group—Toledo Public Library, 173 NW 7th Street

**March 21, 3:30 -10:00 pm:** Pride Foundation Equity Awards—VT's The Loft at 8th Avenue, Portland

**March 25, 6:00-7:30 pm:** Trans Support Group—St. Stephens, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**September 18-20:** Central Oregon Coast Pride, celebrating LGBTQ+ and ally folks and Pride; more later.

**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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