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



# Oregon Central Coast Chapter

December 2015

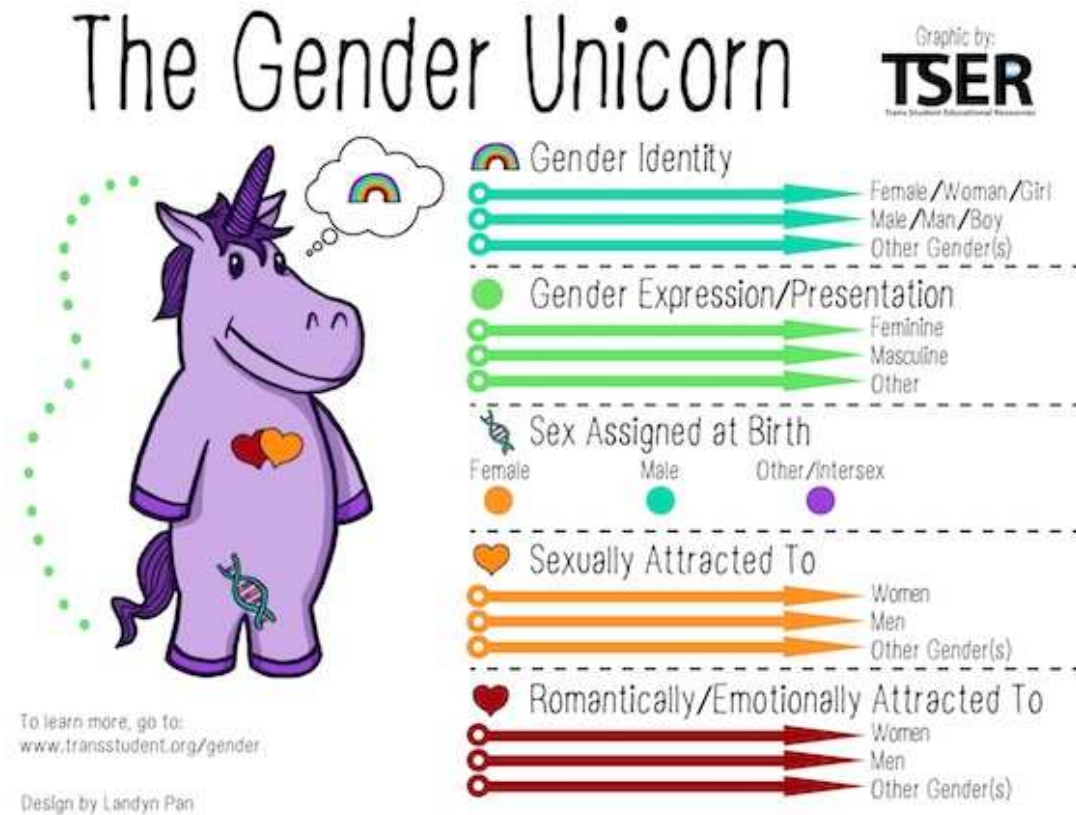
## GSAs Take Action

Present at the Oregon Coast GSA Leadership Conference were 35 people from five schools: Taft 7-12, Newport High, Waldport High, Siuslaw High (Florence), and OCCC. All GSAs have reported record numbers this year with attendance at least doubled in every school. Waldport, a small school of 200, is the star, going from one member last year to almost 20 this year. The other high schools have over 20 members each. At the conference, GSA presidents showcased their successful activities and events. Danni/y Rosen from GLSEN in Portland also made a presentation, and clubs peppered Rosen with questions about making bathrooms and locker rooms more accessible for trans students.

December 9, 6:00-8:00 pm:  
PFLAG Holiday Dessert Potluck

Details on calendar.

## PFLAG Members Use Gender Unicorn in Train-



The local chapter of PFLAG gave its first training of medical staff in Newport on Friday, November 20. Forty health professionals came from all over the county to participate in the basic LGBT+101 about the Gender Unicorn: Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Sex Assigned at Birth, Sexual Attraction, and Romantic Attraction. The session included information about how health providers can welcome LGBT+ patients and provide for their specific health needs. Moderators Ineka Estabrook and Harper Woods also discussed risks specific to LGBT+ youth and transgender people with suggestions of how to best meet the needs of these patients. Estabrook said, "It was a roaring success and we've been asked to repeat the training at our Newport hospital in January, the Corvallis hospital, and at a convention in Portland. We are thrilled to do this work!"

PFLAG also plans to continue work in the K-12 schools with LGBT+ 101 and Trans 101 training at Newport Middle Schools. Estabrook said, "We are transforming our culture by educating our youth."

Pacific Women's Health Group has dedicated themselves to training in providing better services for all LGBT+ patients using sensitivity and support as well as giving transition services and hormone support for transgender clients. OCC PFLAG, in collaboration with Portland's Pride Foundation, is providing some of the training. Estabrook (right) said, "For trans patients to be able to go to a local provider for their medical needs instead of driving all the way up to Portland and back is huge!"



# *Politics on Our Side*

**Tucson (AZ):** Openly gay Christopher Magnus, the city's new police chief, became the first openly gay male police chief to be married when he wed his partner, Terrance Cheung, in early May 2014. He was police chief of Richmond (CA) at that time. (Minneapolis Police Chief Janee Harteau married her longtime partner, Sergeant Holly Keegel, the year before).



Tucson received a 100 on HRC's Municipal Equality Index (MEI), which examines the laws, policies, and services of municipalities and rates them on the basis of their inclusivity of LGBT people who live and work there. One of the most recent of the 353+ cities and towns across the country listed on the MEI is Port Townsend (WA). Scores are available here. <http://www.hrc.org/resources/mei-2014-see-your-citys-score>

**Kentucky:** Marriages for several same-gender couples in Rowan County are still up in the air after County Clerk Kim Davis altered the license forms in protest of marriage equality and Gov. Steven L. Beshear could not guarantee that their licenses are valid. The ACLU says that Davis should re-issue valid licenses to the people who re-

ceived altered marriage ones. The attorneys called the altered marriage licenses "a stamp of animus against gay people."



**Salt Lake City (UT):** In a very red state, Democrat and openly lesbian Jackie Biskupski was elected mayor after serving in the Utah House of Representatives for 13 years. Her opponent, incumbent Ralph Becker, is also an LGBT ally, and Equality Utah endorsed both candidates. Biskupski joins openly LGBT mayors of other cities, including Seattle, although Annise Parker is term-limited out of her mayoral position in Houston (TX) after three four-year terms.

**Utah:** The judge who attempted to take away an infant foster child from a lesbian couple has now recused himself from the case. Hopefully, the parents will be able to adopt the girl.

**United States:** The good news – The VA opened its first clinic geared towards the health and wellbeing of transgender veterans. The bad news – It's open only one day a month for the 15,500 active trans military members and 134,000 trans veterans.

**World News on p. 5.**

## Businesses Give LGBT Support

Hallmark, Nordstrom, and Starbucks achieved top rankings on the Human Rights Campaign's annual Corporate Equality Index. The 14th annual benchmark for LGBT workplace equality rated 1,024 businesses evaluating domestic partner benefits, transgender-inclusive health care, and public engagement with the LGBT community.

Updates this year included requirements for a global non-discrimination policy. Others with a perfect score this year were Twitter, Uber, Airbnb, Apple, and Xerox. [Note: The Uber company may get 100 points, but some of their drivers may not have caught on to human rights yet.]

Lower scores came from Rite-Aid (65), Radio Shack (40), and BJ's Wholesale Club (25). The full report is here: <http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/CEI-2016-FullReport.pdf>

Starbucks plans to make 97 of its Seattle locations into LGBT safe places by training 2,000 employees on how to respond to and engage with LGBT victims of violence and effectively report hate crimes to police.

The coffee chain will partner with the Seattle Police Department's (SPD) Safe Place program. Starbucks' history of LGBT support includes raising a Pride flag over its Seattle headquarters in 2014 and releasing its first LGBT commercial in 2014 featuring drag queens Bianca Del Rio and Adore Delano.

## An Oldie But Goodie!

Last summer's Supreme Court decision legalizing marriage equality sent a lot of people into a tizzy when rainbows covered Facebook and Twitter. The funniest temper tantrum may have been from Don Stair regarding his Arkansas NBC affiliate KARK4 station. In a fit of fury, he dashed this off a tweet:

"Your changing your station logo with the colors of gays is a disgrace. Just stay out of it... Your integrity is ruined... ABC KATV is my choice in the future for all Little Rock station viewing... Shame on you!"

Fortunately, Emi Briet reminded Stair that the peacock has been flaring its feathers since 1956:



Emi Briet ► KARK 4 News

1 hr · Edited · 🌐

NBC: PROUD as a Peacock for almost 60 years! ;) Here's the original 1950s Peacock, Don! ;)



kingoftheroad.net

5 Likes



Like



Comment



Share

As someone else commented:

"Lucky Charms is going to get an angry rant next. No one is safe. LOL"

# News around the World

**France:** France will end its 30-year ban on blood donations by gay men, Health Minister Marisol Touraine said, calling the move the end "of a taboo and discrimination." Beginning in the spring of 2016, no blood donors can be refused based on their sexual orientation. The United States still has a ban but is considering a slight change.

**Republic of Ireland:** The first same-gender couple was married in mid-November after Ireland became the first country in the world to legalize marriage equality by popular vote. Barrister Cormac Gollogly (right) and banker Richard Dowling, both 35, have been together for 12 years. The same week that the two men were married, marriage equality lost by just one vote in the parliament of Northern Ireland, the only part of the United Kingdom that doesn't allow marriage for all its citizens.



**Ukraine:** Lawmakers voted 234-216 to grant LGBT people protection from discrimination in the workplace. The reason is to forge greater ties with the European Union and visa-free travel, but it's still a move forward for beleaguered LGBT people in the area. It may also cause the hate crimes law to recognize LGBTs as a disfavored class.

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## Imam Works to Change the Face of Islam Belief

Thirteen years ago, Washington, DC-based Muslim religious leader Daayiee Abdullah was asked to conduct a funeral for a man who had died of AIDS because other imams refused to give him last rites. Despite worldwide criticism, Abdullah continued his advocacy, speaking out for people with AIDS and HIV, mixed-gender worship, reproductive justice, and full acceptance of LGBTQ people in Muslim communities and Muslim liturgy. These positions are rooted in the Quran, according to his readings of the earliest Chinese and Arabic translations in the original languages. He maintains that the prejudice against same-gender-oriented people is "a cultural attitude, influenced by time and place, which is why ideas about acceptable sexual behavior vary widely."

The Hadith—statements attributed to the Muslim prophet Muhammad—"fables.



They're stories meant to teach a lesson. They are not set in stone as mandates for behavior." Criticism, including that from scholars at the Georgetown Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, the Shura Council of North America, has failed to silence Abdullah. Instead, he was inspired to establish the MECCA Institute, an online school and think tank that will start offering classes in modern-day explication of Islamic philosophy and tenets in 2016. One of its goals is countering fundamentalist dogma, such as the rigid ideologies promoted by ISIS and the Wahhabis, giving contemporary Muslims the tools necessary to practice a socially relevant, open-minded faith. Classes taught by both male and female will include Early Islamic History, Comparative Quran, Arabic, and Gender and Sexual Variance in Islamic Texts and Contexts.

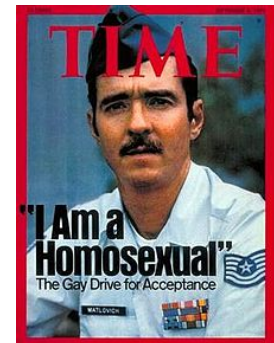
# People Who Make a Difference

**Miss Major Griffin-Gracy**, a veteran of the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York's Greenwich Village, is now the subject of a documentary, *MAJOR!* Now 73, Major was the first trans woman to testify before the UN about violence against trans women of color in the U.S. The average life expectancy of a black trans women in this country is 35. She also led the Transgender, Gender Variant and Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP) for a decade. Still an activist, she called on people to express the contributions of people of color by painting the white plastered statues across from the original Stonewall Inn. Two anonymous activists agreed and painted the statues black.



In Washington's Congressional Cemetery the tombstone of Technical Sergeant **Leonard P. Matlovich**—

exemplary Vietnam War veteran, race relations instructor and recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star—reads, "A Gay Vietnam Veteran—When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one." He was the first gay service member to deliberately out himself to the military to fight their ban on LGBT people serving in the military. His fight led to his being the first named openly gay person on the cover of a U.S. news magazine in 1975.

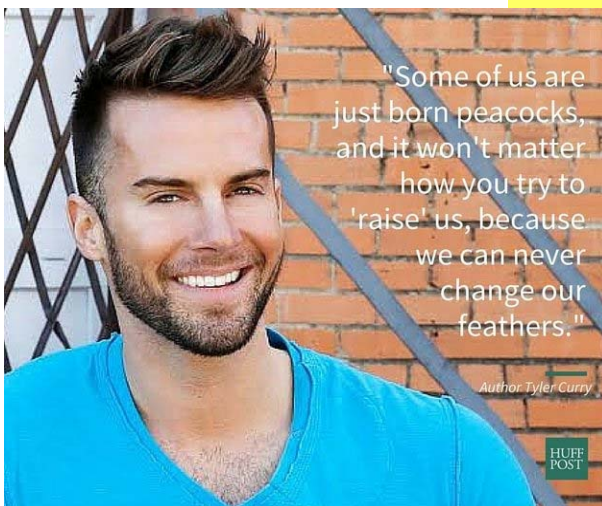


*OUT* magazine has named **President Obama** as its "Ally of the Year." For the first time in the publication's 23-year history, a sitting president has been photographed for an LGBT magazine. Although President Obama opposed marriage equality for several years, his support in 2012 may have moved the Supreme Court to legalize same-gender unions on June 26, 2014.

World AIDS Day has taken place on the first day of December every year since 1988 to bring attention to the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection, mourn the people who have been lost to AIDS, and show solidarity with people living with HIV.

The theme this year is “Getting to Zero,” the same theme set by the World AIDS Campaign for the past four years. Over 1.2 million people in the United States live with HIV infection; almost 1 in 8 are unaware of their infection. In the U.S., an estimated 1,194,039 people have been diagnosed with AIDS, and approximately 658,507 people with an AIDS diagnosis have died.

PFLAG OCC and Coastal Aids Network are supporting a candlelight vigil at the Lincoln City Cultural Center on December 1 (6:00 pm). The event is funded by a grant from Levi Foundation. This grant also funds other events and activities including CAN’s HIV testing.



If selling a wedding cake to a gay couple means that a Christian baker participates in the wedding, does selling a gun to a murderer mean that a Christian gun seller participates in the murder?

# OCC PFLAG Calendar

## December 1: World AIDS Day

**December 1, 6:00 pm:** World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil—Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NW U.S. 101

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

**December 8, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie’s Beachside Grill, Newport

**December 9, 6:00-7:30 pm:** PFLAG Meeting: Holiday Party—St. Stephen’s, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**December 27, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Coast Women’s Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

Journalist Tyler Curry has published his first picture book, *A Peacock among Pigeons* about how Peter’s bright colors and proud strut ostracizes him from a flock of pigeons. Not until the peacock finds other colorful birds—a canary, flamingo, and cardinal—does he learn to “love the feathers” he was born with, even if he doesn’t quite fit in. The 32-year-old Texas native said that he was raised to be masculine with hunting fishing, and athletics, but “some of us ... can never change our feathers.”



## 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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