



# PFLAG *Southwest Washington Chapter*

## August 2018 Newsletter

☎ Call: 360-562-0491 ✉ Email: [pflagswwa@gmail.com](mailto:pflagswwa@gmail.com)  
🌐 Web: [www.pflagswwa.org](http://www.pflagswwa.org) 🌐 WSC Web: [www.pflagwsc.org](http://www.pflagwsc.org)



### Join us:

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Children's Home Society, 1112 Columbia Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

### Next Education and Support Meeting: August 14th, 7pm

- A panel of LGBTQ men and women who are parents will talk about the challenges and successes of being LGBTQ parents.
- The education session will be followed by our caring and sharing support group

### 2018 dates to remember:

- September 9, 9-4pm, Peace and Justice Fair, Esther Short Park
- September 11, 7pm PFLAG SWWA meeting
- September 28-29, 2018 PFLAG Washington State Council Fall Conference, hosted by our chapter in Vancouver
- October 9, 2018 PFLAG SWWA meeting
- November 13, 2018 PFLAG SWWA meeting
- December 11, 2018 PFLAG SWWA meeting

### Peace and Justice Fair

You are invited to attend the Fair on Saturday, September 8, 2018, 9am – 4pm, Esther Short Park

"The Vancouver Peace and Justice Fair will showcase the hard work and creative spirit of individuals, social justice groups, peace organizations, faith communities, performers, artists, businesses, and environmental activists who are making the world a better place." (VPJF website)



Admission is free. During the day, there will be many activities going on at the same time. At the stage, there will be a series of events including music, dance and poetry. Around the park, groups will have exhibit spaces for tables. Children's activities will be happening throughout the day. PFLAG Southwest Washington will be at the Fair to share the PFLAG mission and history.

### Spanish Interpreter Needed for Go Ready Event



PFLAG Southwest Washington is invited to participate in Vancouver School District's August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Go Ready festival at Hudson's Bay High School. Go Ready is designed to help students get ready for school.

It will include food, entertainment, family-friendly activities, and information about early learning, employment, counseling, health care, housing and other resources such as PFLAG.

**PFLAG is in need of Spanish interpreters to help us talk about PFLAG. If you can help interpret between 10 and 1:30 pm on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, please email to [pflagswwa@gmail.com](mailto:pflagswwa@gmail.com). We have Spanish and English language materials available.**

**Do you have an idea for an Education and Support meeting speaker or have a topic of interest you would like to have presented? If you do, please tell us by emailing to [pflagswwa@gmail.com](mailto:pflagswwa@gmail.com)**

## The Triple Point Picnic is Coming Soon!

Please join PFLAG and the Children's Home Society at the annual Triple Point Picnic for LGBTQ youth.

**Date: Tuesday, August 28**

**Time: 5pm**

**Place: Esther Short Park**

**Food: PFLAG will provide sandwiches and water.**

**Please bring salads, chips, and dessert**



PFLAG and Triple Point leaders and LGBTQ youth parents at the 2017 picnic

## Queer Youth 'Cove Summit

The first ever Queer 'Cove Youth Summit, sponsored by YWCA Clark County, Planned Parenthood, and Children's Home Society, was held on July 28th.

It was attended by twenty LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 18. Throughout the day youth were able to choose from a variety of one hour workshops ranging from "Self-Care is Sew Radical" (sewing was involved), "Poetry writing", "D.I.Y or Die a Zine Making Workshop", "Queering College", to the very popular "The Real Magic of Hogwarts".

No one went hungry as there was a light breakfast served upon arrival, salad and pizza served for lunch, and snacks throughout the day.

Post event surveys indicate that the youth all had a great time, gained valuable information, and several would like to participate in the planning committee for next year. There will definitely be more youth summits to come!



PFLAG hosted a coffee for the parents of the youth at Latte Da Coffee House. 



**An LGBTQ on-line ally**

Gender Spectrum provides "... an array of services to help youth, families, organizations and institutions understand and address concepts of Gender identity and Gender expression, including how societal, cultural, organizational and community definitions of gender can be detrimental to any young person that does not fit neatly into these categories."

The site has on line education classes, resources, and support groups

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/>

## Saturday in the Park, Vancouver USA's Pride Festival



Saturday in the Park, Vancouver USA's Pride Festival, celebrated its 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 14<sup>th</sup> at Esther Short Park and PFLAG Southwest Washington was there again for the 24<sup>th</sup> year to add to the festivities. Ten PFLAGers manned the chapter's colorful booth. They gave out Pride flags to children and provided information about the chapter, Triple Point, Janus, and the Queer Youth Summit. In addition, 13 different PFLAG publications were available. Many visitors to the booth testified of the benefit PFLAG has been to their lives and their families.



**Left:** Long time PFLAGers Barbara Aitkin, Nancy Dresher, and Irene Dilley wave Pride flags to celebrate Vancouver's Pride Festival

**Left:** Vancouver USA Pride's 2018 poster

**Right:** PFLAGers Gail Wolz and Linda Buckley tabled at our information booth.



## Beaming with Pride (Reproduced with the permission of the Columbian)

### Groups, nonprofits, businesses show support at 24th annual LGBTQ event

By [Scott Hewitt](#), Columbian Arts & Features Reporter

Published: July 14, 2018, 11:30 PM

Baxter Jones relaxed on a bench and grinned quietly at the colorful, noisy, celebratory scene buzzing all around him in Esther Short Park.

"It makes me feel great," Jones said while surveying the crowd assembled for Saturday in the Park Pride, Clark County's 24th annual gay pride celebration. "Every year it's bigger and bigger. It's all about bringing community together for a good cause and a good time."

Jones is a longtime organizer and volunteer at Martha's Pantry, Clark County's food bank and community center for people with HIV/AIDS and one of many community groups, nonprofit agencies and businesses that brought booths to Saturday in the Park Pride. Martha's Pantry has a direct connection to the local LGBTQ population and its needs, but many others were there simply to demonstrate support and friendship — and to underline the presence of LGBTQ people in the public, visible mainstream.

U.S. Bank was there to introduce its Pride business resource group, which focuses on LGBTQ customer and employee outreach, support, education and safety; this was the first time the banking giant took part in the Vancouver festivities, according to staffer Robert Ruiz. Hewlett Packard was there too, showing off its 3D printer technology and taking souvenir photos of Prideful participants.

Unions were there. Local governments were there. Churches were there. Ethnic social groups were there — like Utopia PDX, which helps connect queer and trans Pacific Islanders in the Portland area, according to organizer Manumalo Ala'ilima. Political leaders and candidates for office were there. Renewal by Andersen, a regional window company, was there, and so was national wholesale giant Costco.

“I’m here because I want people to know I believe in fair housing and I’m part of this community. And I’m a lesbian,” said Realtor Ricki Anaya. “The best way to reach out to our clients is to be out. It used to be, don’t talk about it, don’t show it. Well, forget that.” Anaya was drumming up business by handing out flyers featuring the very made-up face of a drag queen and the motto “Moving shouldn’t be a drag!”

According to Simona Matteucci, “lesbian visibility” was the point of the third annual Dyke March, illustrating Anaya’s point. The march is a special parade within the event that circled the park several times, lead by a pair of solemn drum majors. Matteucci steered a motorized wheelchair and held up a sign reading “Italian lesbians: deal with it.”

Given the rightward tilt of today’s political landscape, Matteucci said, the push for visibility feels extra urgent this year. “It’s a scary time for us,” she said. “We just want to show people we are here and we are no different than anybody else. We’re teachers, lawyers, doctors, garbage collectors. We’re just a normal part of life.”

### **Normal and special**

Try telling that “normal” part to Nick Sabatasso of Portland and Tom Racioppo of Vancouver, who obviously felt as special as can be while strolling the park on Saturday. You could see it in their beaming smiles and their tightly clasped hands, which never unclasped — even when a reporter started asking them nosy questions.

Two men holding hands in public is far more acceptable than it used to be, they agreed — but that doesn’t mean it’s fine everywhere. At Saturday in the Park Pride, though, it obviously felt fabulous to the couple. “It feels great to feel so confident about holding hands with my loved one,” Sabatasso said. “It is very validating.”

Ron Rasmussen was there in military fatigues with two other members of Veterans for Human Rights; they formally presented colors at the start of the event (after kids from Metropolitan Performing Arts sang a ukulele-accompanied national anthem): a U.S. flag, a Washington state flag and a rainbow flag.

Rasmussen, who has presented colors at many pride events over many years, said he loves seeing the “awe and wonder” in the eyes of LGBTQ people as they realize that serious symbols of patriotism and national pride belong to them too.

Saturday was a first-ever Pride gathering for 15-year-old Skyler Anderson of Vancouver, who sported a homemade T-shirt with rainbow lettering that declared Anderson’s magically inclusive attitude: “If Harry Potter taught us anything, it’s that no one should live in a closet.”



## PFLAG Online Academy

PFLAG Academy Online brings free, monthly, PFLAG members-only learning sessions right to your computer screen. Benefit from PFLAG's diverse learning options, informed staff, great guests, and input from other participants...all without leaving home. All you need is a computer (or mobile device) and the drive to move equality forward.

<https://www.pflag.org/onlineacademy>



**PFLAG** and  
Southwest Washington Chapter



Washington  
State Council  
Moving Equality Forward  
[www.pflagwsc.org](http://www.pflagwsc.org)

### Invite you to attend the 2018 PFLAG Washington State Council Fall Conference at the 'Couve . . .

'Couve means Vancouver . . .  
That's Vancouver WA, not Vancouver BC . . .  
You know, near Portland . . .  
Portland OR, not Portland ME . . .  
By the Columbia . . .  
That's Columbia River, not District of Columbia . . .  
In Clark County . . .  
Clark County WA, not Clark County NV!



### *Opening Doors to Safe Places*

Special speaker is Diego Sanchez, PFLAG National Director of Advocacy

Dates: Friday and Saturday, September 28 and 29

Friday eve get together: Beaches Restaurant, 5:30pm-8:30pm,  
1919 SE Columbia River Drive, Vancouver, WA 98661

Saturday conference location: Clark County Public Utilities Community Room,  
8:30am-4:30pm, 1200 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA 98663

Cost: \$20 cash or check per attendee at the door

Pre-registration required: Register at [www.pflagwsc.org](http://www.pflagwsc.org)