

# COASTAL PRIDE

## Ocean Shores

*and Southwest Grays Harbor County*

Community Newsmagazine  
Celebrating LGBTQA Diversity  
and Dances of the Human Spirit

September/October 2023

Marriage  
Equality  
*and*  
RELIGION

INTERVIEW WITH  
Neccie Logan





Mike and his husband Steven

## From the Publisher

In this issue we weigh in on the heady subject of Equal Marriage and Religion. We look at who is accepting and who is not with Kat Bryant’s insightful focus on churches in our area.

Our City of Ocean Shores Police Chief Neccie Logan talks with Rhonda Brown about what it’s like serving in our beach town community, and offers words of advice for our LGBTQ youth.

Gina McCauley looks at some of the important community work that happens to make our annual 4th of July celebration on our beaches safe and enjoyable for everyone while protecting our environment.

As a non-binary individual, Liz Bell shares their experience in moving to Grays Harbor County, and we welcome Gary Douglas Lennon’s perspective on Equal Marriage.

We hear again from our two local authors as C. S Anderson interviews award-winning author Raven Oak, David Clark Done shares a poem from his book *And Man Made God In His Image*, and our local drag darling Tru St James initiates her advice column, *Yours Tru-ly*.

We also take a look at the results of completed anonymous *Coastal Pride* online surveys to better understand our readership’s demographics and interests, and we start to dive in to some circulation and website traffic statistics behind the first two issues of *Coastal Pride*. And I’m pleased to report: they’re not bad for right out of the gate.

Thanks for taking a look, and joining the ride.

Mike Schultz  
Publisher

## Dedication

This issue is dedicated to our Ocean Shores friends and neighbors who engage in our local spirited political discourse with sufficient restraint and maturity to foster civility. At the end of the day, we are one community and one family.

# Coastal Pride

## OCEAN SHORES

September / October 2023  
Vol. 1 Issue 3

Community Newsmagazine  
Celebrating LGBTQA Diversity  
and Dances of the Human Spirit

Distributed free online at  
[www.coastalpride.net](http://www.coastalpride.net)

Publisher  
MIKE SCHULTZ  
[publisher@coastalpride.net](mailto:publisher@coastalpride.net)

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### Contributors

RHONDA BROWN  
KAT BRYANT  
C. S ANDERSON  
GINA MCCAULEY  
MATT CYPHERT  
TRU SAINT JAMES  
NATALIE WENDT  
WILLIAM C. TIAGLAO  
DAVID CLARK DONE  
ANDREW MILNE  
JOHN KUROSKI  
LIZ BELL  
GINA COOPER  
GARY DOUGLAS LENNON

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*Getting to know*  
**Neccie Logan**

CITY of  
OCEAN SHORES

# Chief of Police

by Rhonda Brown

photo by Matt Cyphert

**W**hile the role of a public servant is, by nature, highly visible, it is natural to desire a modicum of privacy. Working on the police force brings this dichotomy into greater contrast - someone who is responding to some of life's most difficult and candid moments is also always in the public eye. In a small town so many people tend to know each other in ways that are not often seen in larger cities. Being part of the LGBTQ+ community can also be cause for speculation or conversation, whether relevant or not. Because of this and more it was a great honor that I was able to sit down and have an honest conversation with Ocean Shores' Chief of Police, Neccie Logan, and learn more about her life and her position in the community.

**LOGAN - To Page 14**



# Marriage Equality and Christianity

“I want people of faith to be able to come and worship and be part of a community wholeheartedly. In worship, we are all equal as guests of God. So the idea that we are all welcome at God’s table – it is not our table, it is not our place to condemn anyone. We are all equally embraced by God’s love. And that is really the core of my belief.”

-Rev Angela Renecker  
Galilean Lutheran Church  
Ocean Shores



A focus on Grays Harbor County:  
In Christianity, biblical interpretation is key to equality.

by Kat Bryant

Many of us were raised with the idea that Christianity and the LGBTQ+ community just don’t mix. But a number of churches here on the Harbor are proving that belief false.

Most of the “open and affirming” (O&A) congregations here are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or ELCA. O&A faiths have issued national statements officially welcoming those from the LGBTQ+ community as members and extending marriage rites to them.

Others are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA), or PCUSA, which is officially open and affirming – as opposed to the Presbyterian Church in America, which refuses to perform same-sex weddings.

One local congregation represents the Episcopal Church, also an O&A denomination.

And one represents the national United Methodist Church, which is not officially O&A, though many of its pastors choose to celebrate same-sex weddings despite restrictions. Kathryn Garnett, retired pastor of Hoquiam Methodist Church, is among them.

Although she’s retired, Garnett still preaches there once a month. She says Hoquiam Methodist became what’s called a “reconciling congregation” about 15 years ago. This means the members of the congregation voted to publicly welcome people of all genders and sexual orientations without restriction.

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“It’s my firm belief that people coming to our congregation would be treated equally and welcomed warmly, no matter what their own identity is.”

-Rev Amanda Sullivan-Kersey  
South Beach United Presbyterian Church, Westport

#### CHRISTIANITY - From Previous Page

That includes performing same-sex weddings. When it was made legal in Washington, Garnett sought the backing of the church to allow it; and they voted to say yes.

“We are strong supporters of everyone in our society with no exception, which is our call as Christians,” she says.

Most of the Harbor’s O&A pastors agree with that sentiment.

Rev. Michelle de Beauchamp, ordained by the ELCA, is pastor of Saron Lutheran-First Presbyterian Church in Hoquiam. When gay marriage became legal nationwide, the first same-sex wedding she performed was between her uncles.

“To me, that was really living out my faith as a Christian to be able to honor my uncles, who now have been together for 30-plus years,” she says. “My faith has taught me to preach love and kindness and care and grace, and that’s what the grace of God is about.”

Rev. Angela Renecker points to a plaque above the front door of Galilean Lutheran Church in Ocean Shores: “At my table, all are welcome.”

“I want people of faith to be able to come and worship and be part of a community wholeheartedly,” she says. “... In worship, we are all equal as guests of God. So the idea that we are all welcome at God’s table – it is not our table, it is not our place to condemn any-

one. We are all equally embraced by God’s love. And that is really the core of my belief.”

For the Rev. Dr. Amanda Sullivan-Kersey, co-pastor of South Beach United Presbyterian Church in Westport and Twin Harbors Lutheran Church in Grayland, the issue of gay marriage hits especially close to home: She is a married gay woman herself.

She was raised Southern Baptist and later was ordained in the United Church of Christ, which was one of the first to ordain members of the LGBTQ+ community. UCC has ecumenical standing with ELCA and the Presbyterian Church (USA), which allows her to preach at those churches. Neither of her congregations has adopted a fully “open and affirming” (O&A) stance, but she says both are open.

“Think of a time where you have had to ask yourself: Is it safe for me to be here? And not because of other people, but because of who you are,” says Sullivan-Kersey. “There are those of us – including myself as a gay pastor – who have to look at those things. I do look for the flag. I do look for the sign. I do look for the O&A because I want to know that when I enter into this space, I can be fully me – or do I have to be careful who I disclose this to? ... These things are important.”

In the rural South Beach area of Grays Harbor, congregations are aging. Getting them to understand the need to project that aura of safety is a challenge, she says.

#### CHRISTIANITY - To Page 12

#### Churches featured in this article:

**Galilean Lutheran Church**  
Angela Renecker, Pastor  
824 Ocean Shores Blvd NW,  
Ocean Shores, WA 98569  
<https://www.galileanlutheranchurch.com>

**South Beach United Presbyterian Church**  
Amanda Sullivan-Kersey,  
Co-Pastor  
3707 WA-105, Westport, WA 98595  
360-268-9773  
438 Dolphin Avenue NE

**Twin Harbors Lutheran Church**  
Amanda Sullivan-Kersey,  
Co-Pastor  
2424 WA-105, Grayland, WA 98547  
360-267-3124

**Saron Lutheran/First Presbyterian Church**  
Michelle de Beauchamp,  
Pastor  
708 8th St., Hoquiam, WA 98550  
360-532-4611  
<https://sarongraysharbor.org>

**Hoquiam Methodist Church**  
Kathryn Garnett, Pastor  
(retired)  
520 5th St, Hoquiam, WA 98550  
360-533-1101  
<http://hoquiamumc.org>

**St Mark’s Episcopal Church**  
Bonnie Campbell, Pastor  
124 N Sylvania St. Montesano, WA 98563  
360-249-3281  
<https://www.stmarksmonte.com>

# non-Christian Faith *and* Marriage Equality

Debates about same-sex marriage often center on a question of religion. But the rhetoric opposing gay marriage comes from only a handful of religious people and does not represent all religious communities. Christian viewpoints alone run from vehement opposition to activism on behalf of gay couples. But rarely do we hear what other religions say about gay marriage. Let's take a look at the religious perspectives you may not know.



by Natalie Wendt

## Baha'i

The Baha'i Faith is one of peace and acceptance. It surprises many that, while taking no official stance on same-sex civil marriage, it does not recognize gay marriage. Sexual relationships are only permissible in the context of heterosexual marriage, and those who violate this religious law may face sanctions, including being cut off from community gathering. Some within the Faith now advocate for a re-examination of this practice.

## Buddhism

Whether or not a Buddhist group supports gay marriage depends primarily on how that Buddhist community interprets homosexuality. Unlike many religions, Buddhism has no central book of religious law. Instead, the historical Buddha laid down precepts for his followers to adopt voluntarily, with the first five precepts being the most important. The third precept is "to avoid sexual misconduct." Buddha's original teachings do not directly reference sexual orientation and don't define "sexual misconduct." Some

Buddhist cultures consider gay sexuality to violate the third precept, though there are no clear scriptural sources for this attitude. Other Buddhist communities are highly accepting of GLBTQ members. Bhikkshuni Thubten Chodron, founder of Sravasti Abbey in Newport, Washington and Buddhism nun for more than thirty years, explains the third precept as "using sexuality wisely and kindly." She affirms that there is no conflict between this and consensual adult same-sex relationships.

Buddhist monk Mettanando Bhikkhu explains in the

## Hinduism

Bangkok Post that Buddhism doesn't regard gender as inherent. Since gender is not a reflection of a divine plan, there's no spiritual obstacle to same-gender marriage. (Buddhism also generally has no problem with transgender individuals, who are allowed to ordain as monks and nuns). Lay Buddhist teachers in all traditions perform same-sex weddings. Interestingly, monks and nuns do not perform weddings at all because of their celibacy-focused vows, although they may perform blessings for the couple, including same-sex couples.

Western Buddhist groups usually see no conflict between Buddhism and same-sex relationships. Many American Buddhist leaders object to discrimination as a violation of the central Buddhist principle of compassion. Some have declared gay marriage bans to conflict with their religious beliefs because of this. Buddhist teachers, including Zen teacher Robert Aitken of Honolulu Diamond Sangha, have testified and publicly advocated for the legalization of gay marriage.

Rooted in thousands of years of tradition, Hinduism is as diverse as a religion can be. Like Buddhism, there is no central Hindu authority. Not surprisingly, religious opinions on gay marriage run the gamut. The American Hindu Foundation notes that there is no fundamental spiritual opposition to queerness within Hinduism. Some Hindu communities hold anti-LGBT attitudes, often reflecting sentiments from nations that colonized the Indian subcontinent, such as the British Empire. Hindus may also oppose same-sex marriage on the grounds that, according to some interpretations of the Dharma Shastras, a purpose of marriage is procreation and this excludes same-sex relationships. Other Hindus interpret the Dharma Shastras differently and affirm the inclusion of same-sex couples, or acknowledge that these texts are guides and not a binding set of rules.

Some Hindu priests conduct same-sex marriage ceremonies. Hindu master Swami Bodhananda Saraswati encourages his students to

accept same-sex unions, explaining, "We always look at everyone as spirit...people's karma brings them together." While not reflective of religious beliefs, a Pew Research Center survey released in June 2023 found that 53% of adults in India supported the legalization of gay marriage.

## Islam

Drawing from the Hebrew and Christian Bibles, as well as the Qur'an, Islam forbids homosexuality. However, there is no central governing body in Islam, so attitudes vary across its over one billion followers. In many Islamic republics, homosexual sex is illegal, and in some cases punishable by death. Yet others within Islam advocate for gay rights, and some imams perform same-sex weddings. Progressive Islam and other liberal Muslim groups have called for reinterpretations of marriage and revaluations scriptural passages used to condemn gay relationships. Some Progressive Muslim

*GAY / RELIGION - Continued Page 16*

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Ocean Shores, WA 98569  
360-289-3313  
churchofficeglc1419@gmail.com  
www.galileanlutheranchurch.com

**Angela Renecker**  
Pastor

# MARKET UPDATE

A niche-market perspective  
by Gina Cooper



Email: [GinaC@OyhutBay.com](mailto:GinaC@OyhutBay.com)  
Cell: 425-466-0539

## Exploring the idea of a second home?

Oyhut Bay Seaside Village is a trending community on the south end of Ocean Shores, WA. Our village has flourished in recent years and has caught the eye of a diverse group of homeowners. Ranging in ages from 30s to 80s. Oyhut Bay homes are built with quality materials and timeless finishes. Thoughtful floor plans with 9 foot ceilings and open concept living give each home its own style and elegance that can be best described as contemporary meets upscale coastal, with a dash of modern craftsman. Oyhut Bay has earned its spot in the real estate community, as a top choice for buyers looking to purchase a second home that can also be used as a short-term rental home. The STR concept has brought the possibility of owning a vacation home to a whole new generation.

Combining the well-structured property management department, solid infrastructure and the vision of a highly regarded developer has made Oyhut Bay a destination for vacationers, homeowners, and guests of all ages.

Oyhut Bay Realty  
2023

16  
Homes have sold in  
Oyhut Bay

11  
New construction  
homes

5  
Resales, sold by  
Oyhut Bay Realty

OyhutBay.com

## The Oyhut Bay Experience

The moment you drive in, you'll feel the "peaceful energy" that so many people comment on. That small town feel, with walkable amenities.

- Oyhut Bay Grill
- Corks & Taps Wine Bar & Tap Room
- Oyhut Bay Market & Bakery
- Canal Access Park
- Beach Trail
- Playground
- Bike Rentals
- Walkability
- Retail



Oyhut Bay  
Events Center  
Opening in  
2024





# FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

## PRIDE PROM

Friday, September 22  
Events on Emerson  
Hoquiam

## GRAYS HARBOR PRIDE FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 23  
Grays Harbor Historical Seaport  
Aberdeen



## FABULOUSLY GAY! SPONSORS



Photo: Shervin Lainez



# 4th of July Ocean Shores *Cleanup*



Ocean Shores fireworks on the beach 2023 | photo by William C. Tiaglo

*It's all hands on deck* for Ocean Shores Police and Fire Departments, and an army of community volunteers, including our LGBTQA residents, to make the annual 4th of July celebration on our beaches safe and enjoyable while protecting our environment.

by Gina McCauley

**B**OOM! It's the 4th of July in Ocean Shores, and what a crazy holiday it was – our fire department responded to 22 calls for service on the 4th. Most locals don't go near town during this holiday, and, wisely so. Our City Administrator notes we had approximately 103,845 visitors between July 1-4, and 28,390 on the 4th alone. That's up from 2022, and results in a lot of garbage.

There has been an effort to mitigate some of the carnage for years. Volunteers would greet visitors at each drivable beach entrance to hand out the blue garbage bags provided by the city. When the lead person for that effort decided to retire two years ago, Happily Sharing Ocean Shores, our Ocean Shores destination marketing/promo social media group, took the event under their wing, christening it the 'Blue Bag Brigade'.

This year I enlisted members of

This year Ocean Shores saw about 103,845 visitors between July 1-4, 28,390 on the 4th alone.

-Scott Anderson,  
City Administrator, Ocean Shores

"Overall there were 46 volunteers manning five beach entrances and together we handed out around 5,000 blue bags. The 4th of July is crazy here for sure. I'm proud of our community members and how they've cared for the environment and our beaches."

-Gina McCauley

our Meetup group, Out and Older in Ocean Shores, to person the Taurus beach entrance exclusively. My ulterior motive was to gently introduce our 'community' to our visitors, many of whom may have not interacted one-to-one with LGBTQ folks before. I also wanted our Ocean Shores neighbors to witness our care for, and involvement in, this funky little town we live in. And, since we all live close to our beaches, I wanted to do whatever we could to help our beaches survive the onslaught of

fireworks and picnic debris.

I set up a canopy with a banner reading "Out 'n Older in Ocean Shores" at the entrance to the beach at Taurus. Bags were delivered by volunteer, Garvie Cooper. A big shout out to our volunteers, Dan Darr, Connie Clifford, Judy Pike, John Arbuckle, and Mel Devore. I scheduled two-hour shifts from 10:00 to 4:00, and had chairs to sit in during the slow spells (we old folks, yah know). Mike Schultz and Steven Sanford brought us some decadent donuts to help us maintain our energy (and weight). We handed out about 550 bags at our entrance alone! Overall there were 46 volunteers manning five beach entrances and together we handed out around 5,000 blue bags. Yay, us!

We had fun! Mel and John were so dashing two-stepping in the street, without music no less! Dan and I battled mosquitoes most of the morning, but still had fun. All our visitors were cordial, mostly jovial, and thanked us for the bags and our volunteerism.

Thank you to other Out and Older members who went back to the beach on the 5th, along with other volunteers, to collect garbage not picked up by show goers. There was a lot! Per the city, they collected around 15 cubic yards of garbage. That'll fill a whole dump-truck! The 4th of July is crazy here for sure. I'm proud of our community members and how they've cared for the environment and our beaches.



Gina McCauley lives in Ocean Shores, founded Snooter-doots and is very active promoting small businesses and bringing the LGBTQ community together.



4th of July Blue Bag Brigade volunteers greeting visitors at a beach entrance.



Mel Devore and Gina McCauley volunteering at the Out 'n Older tent at the Taurus Beach entrance July 4th, part of the Blue Bag Brigade.

#### A few special shout outs to....

Mike and Cindy Thuirer of North Beach Realty Ocean Shores for giving us a place to store and stage the large amount of blue bags.

Lisa Scott for helping with the schedule of volunteers.

Garvie Cooper for making sure the approaches were stocked with bags.

#### Thank you to the volunteers in this year's 4th of July Blue Bag Brigade:

Robin Cole  
Judy Pike  
Connie Clifford  
Dan Darr, Dan Sells Ocean Shores  
Nick and Mike  
John Arbuckle  
Mel Devore  
Gina McCauley  
Gina Cooper  
Jody Powell Cadle  
Kim and Dean  
Sue Metcalf  
Patti Foster Risse  
Mike and Linda Cotton  
Pat Kelsey, The Celtic Sunflower  
Carmen Matson, Burlap and Lace Vintage Market  
Stephanie Morton, @The Observer  
Larry Comparone  
Jennifer Herboldsheimer  
Jaime Freeby  
Richard McClurg  
Jon Martin, Ocean Shores Mayor  
Debbie Cain  
Lori Murphy  
John Gallaher  
Adeana Rich  
Janet Needham  
Lana Carlene  
Amy Robins  
Clint and Tina Flintoff  
Alex Suarez  
Richard Wills  
Barbara Daly  
James Bitseff  
Trish Greer  
Patti Welsh  
Tammi Graham  
Lisa Griebel  
JD Reynolds  
Jim Hummer  
Leigh Lott  
Lori and Jerry Davis  
Kathy Charpentier  
Cathy and Russ Mugford  
Samantha Plante  
Steve and Pat Edwards  
Brie Kappert, Coastal Yard Designs

"You can't swing a cat around here without hitting someone with a gay kid or a gay grandkid. So actual acceptance is not that hard," she says. "It's more about the visualization of it" – for example, the hanging of a rainbow flag, which a vocal few of her parishioners feel is unnecessary. Still, she says, the welcoming atmosphere is definitely there.

"I have relatives who won't darken the door of a church because of the rejection they've received," says Sullivan-Kersey. "It's my firm belief that people coming to our congregation would be treated equally and welcomed warmly, no matter what their own identity is."

Rev. Boneta Campbell has served for 14 years as the priest of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Montesano, an O&A congregation.

"I've done two [weddings] that are same-sex – one was for a priest colleague and her wife, and the other was for two parishioners," she says. "What I've seen is marriages between same-sex people are pretty much the same as heterosexual relationships as far as how they treat one another and how they raise children. I don't see a huge difference in how



"At My Table All Are Welcome" is engraved on a wooden plaque of The Last Supper above the front doors of Galilean Lutheran Church in Ocean Shores.

they relate to one another. And I won't marry a couple if I don't feel like they're fully consenting, and I don't see a fully loving and supporting relationship between the two people. ... So, I don't have to treat those relationships any differently than any others."

The Harbor's O&A pastors also agree that Scripture is largely silent on the issue of gay marriage – despite many public opinions to the contrary.

From a cultural and historical standpoint, many of the biblical passages cited by those against gay marriage are simply being read out of context, says de Beauchamp. A lot of the passages often used against the LGBT+ community, she says, are actually against sexual abuse of young boys by those in authority – not against consenting love between

two individuals.

Renecker echoes that interpretation.

"I was raised in a fairly fundamentalist church and became Lutheran in college. So I'm aware of the prejudice that is out there," she says. "But I don't think that prejudice is warranted by the Scriptures. The verses that are often used to beat people over the head are definitely a distortion of those Scriptures. St. Paul is often quoted – but in the passage where he talks about it, he's not talking about homosexuality at all. He's talking about sexual abuse – pederasty, child abuse, that sort of thing.

"The word 'homosexuality' wasn't even used in English translations of the Bible until 1947 or thereabouts, and definitely the passages are few and far between," Renecker adds. "Jesus doesn't say anything at all about the subject. But the passages from Leviticus, for example, are more about kosher law than anything else. Kosher was more than just food."

Sullivan-Kersey concurs. "There are some things that Scripture is silent on. There are some things that people want to say – Ruth and Naomi, Jonathan and David, blah blah blah – and I don't know that I necessarily read that into it. ... But I 100 percent believe that when you have love between two consenting adult persons, God can be glorified in that."

"Jesus doesn't say anything about it, so I don't see that Jesus said



Pastor Amanda Sullivan-Kersey of United Presbyterian Church in Westport performs a same-sex wedding in 2014.

it was wrong," adds Campbell. "From my viewpoint, it's more about a relationship being consensual and nonviolent – that the people are in a loving and supportive relationship."

It's also important to remember biblical context, notes de Beauchamp: The words were written by oppressed minorities in massive empires. "Think what it would be like to be constantly oppressed. To me, as a pastor and a Christian, the LGBT community in our country is facing a lot of scary oppression. And I think it would be un-Christian to interpret [the Bible] in a hateful way when they are the ones that Jesus would show love and care and compassion to if he came back today."

In addition, she says, the Bible simply did not address many of today's societal issues. One could interpret some passages as an argument for slavery or abolitionism, for example. But it's a living text that must be interpreted with a modern view – and "with a lens of love and compassion," she says.

The pastors all expressed hope for greater acceptance in the future.

"The church is changing, and we have got to get on board with that," said Sullivan-Kersey. "And I don't mean we let go of those beliefs and those ideals and everything. But we have to recognize that maybe those things that we were holding on to weren't actually rooted in God or any kind of scriptural foundation – maybe only in interpretation."

"I've been a pastor for almost 28 years," says Renecker. "I've seen our society as a whole come a long way on this issue even in my lifetime, and I think we have farther to go. But I see reasons for hope."

De Beauchamp says it's up to those who believe to make it happen through their actions, not just their words.

### *Who will and (probably) won't...*

A growing number of organized religious groups in the United States have issued statements officially welcoming LGBTQ people as members and extending marriage rites to them. If you are looking to have a religious wedding ceremony, below are denominations that have embraced marriage for loving same-sex couples:

- Alliance of Baptists
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) [CL]
- Episcopal Church [CL] [R]
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [CL]
- Metropolitan Community Churches
- Old Catholics/Independent Catholics
- Presbyterian Church (USA) [CL]
- Unitarian Universalist Association
- United Church of Christ•

CL=Clergy may refuse at their discretion

R=Clergy who refuse must refer the couple to another church or clergy member

For the denominations below, it's less clear. For example, while the United Methodist Church officially does not sanction same-sex marriages, some individual UMC churches do perform them.

- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- American Baptist Church USA
- Church of God in Christ
- Church of the Nazarene
- Eastern Orthodox Church
- National Baptist Convention USA Inc.
- Pentecostals
- Presbyterian Church in America
- Roman Catholic Church
- Southern Baptist Convention
- United Methodist Church

Information pulled from the Human Rights Coalition's comprehensive list. For more details, visit <https://www.hrc.org/resources/positions-of-faith-on-same-sex-marriage>.



"As a pastor and a Christian, my heart breaks when I see people preaching and teaching so much hate when my faith is so rooted in love and acceptance," she says. "That's not my Christianity. That's not my Jesus."

"We need to not just say it. We need to show up more for people needing the support."

Kat Bryant, a lifelong writer and editor, has been an Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition board member since 2019. She lives in Hoquiam.

“Do not let your sexuality define you as a person and don’t let it control how you respond to your environment. Just be the best you that you can be. Be confident in yourself and hold your head high. Keep your mind open because you may be surprised to find the support and love you need from the people you may have least expected it from”

-Neccie Logan

### LOGAN - From Page 3

Chief Logan has been in her position since April 1, 2018, and has served in policing around the state for many years. However, it was her original career goal of becoming a special education teacher that ultimately led to her desire to enter the police force and continue the work she now knows and loves. While in college, a partner at the time suggested that the primary role of law enforcement is to educate themselves and others for both crime prevention and conflict resolution. Educating herself, while a constant process, is something she has done in earnest. She initially entered the academy after graduating from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice.

After completing her degree and the police academy she was in the first COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) program in Portland, OR - studying an additional 4-½ months in a program that was funded by the federal government to allow local smaller police forces to have highly-trained officers without sacrificing already small budgets. But her education did not end there: she was one of 3-4 officers from Washington State selected to attend the FBI National Academy at Quantico, VA that is held 3 times a year. A very selective process is involved to be accepted, and 10 weeks

of intense training required for her to graduate from this elite program. With the town being on a jetty in a region that has a high natural disaster risk rate and is quite distant from major cities and medical facilities, having a first responder with such a broad background is a boon to our area.

Ocean Shores, in general, is no different from many small-town police forces in their tight budgets and small numbers. The city currently has a total force of 18 officers, which also includes animal control and marine patrol within their numbers. Chief Logan also enlists volunteers for some community safety, and strongly hopes to increase their staff in the near future. With a population of over 7,000, a constantly fluctuating tourist population, over 8,000 acres of land, and 26 miles of fresh waterways, they are always busy and in need of more support. Even so, it seems Chief Logan’s goal of prevention and education is doing well to keep all (local and tourist alike) safe and experiencing a low rate of crime. Long days, a diverse and supportive team, and the dedication to treat all they interact sans labels or preconceptions is what she credits their success to. Her thoughts on their ability to protect and serve is not without complaints, though. They always need more staff, especially over holidays like July 4th, and their



Neccie Logan (upper right) and wife Sara Logan (upper left) with their son and daughter, 2023.

facilities are severely lacking: there is no dedicated interview room, and so at times they are forced to use offices or waiting areas in order to speak privately.

In our time talking there was not one thing she could say that was bad about being Chief, as an out woman in the community or in her role, or the people she has come to know here. While some may not be thrilled to have to talk to the police in a time of conflict, she has not seen any anti-cop sentiment in general, and even though different gatherings like Black Lives Matter and Pride have involved discord in some areas, it is not an issue in Ocean Shores. In fact: Ocean Shores does not have any dedicated police presence at these official events, as it is neither needed for participants or those who might be in opposition. She acknowledges that “most people are here to live or visit and simply enjoy themselves and never cause a problem.” When she does get a call, she and her officers know

### LOGAN - To Next Page

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they are often “going in blind”, and the best course of action is always to deal with each person, as needed. In her words: “I treat everyone like they’re my friend.”

Chief Logan is not without support and a good work/life balance. Her partner and wife, Sara Logan, their two children, and a child from a previous marriage are all a major part of her life and bring her great joy. She tells me that Sara would like it if she didn’t have calls to go out when they are enjoying some well-needed family time, but prefers she leads by example and is proud that she does. Neccie is also an avid runner and has run countless races, including finishing the Boston Marathon a year after the finish line bombing. For her, running that particular race was a great badge of honor, as not only was she amongst so many showing that they would

not be scared away, but was joining a friend who had been there the year before in what was a great feat of courage. It has become their family tradition over the past few years now to actually pick a race (big or small) somewhere and schedule their vacation plans around traveling there.

Having a prominent civil servant in a committed same-sex marriage in a small town might not be what some would expect, but her dedication to work, family and community have shown that she is as steadfast as can be. She is proud of who she is, where she lives, and what she does. Recognizing she also serves as an example in a prominent public service role, she has this to say to our queer youth: “Do not let your sexuality define you as a person and don’t let it control how you respond to your environment. Just be the best you that you can be. Be confident in yourself and hold your head high. Keep your mind open because

you may be surprised to find the support and love you need from the people you may have least expected it from. You may also come across some haters along the way but whatever you do, do not program your mind to think that everyone you come across is going to be a hater. That is a waste of energy and time. Don’t let them get you down. Live life for you and nobody else.” Great advice to live by.



Rhonda Brown is a contributor to local LGBTQ+ publications in Washington State. She currently resides in Shoreline, WA and continues to work in art restoration and international finance. Her hobbies include kayaking and caring for elderly and disabled pets.

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communities have openly gay members and advocate for gay marriage.

## Judaism

The Leviticus passage often cited to condemn homosexuality comes, of course, from the Hebrew Bible. Yet many branches of Judaism perform weddings ceremonies for same-sex couples. The Reconstructionist and Renewal movements endorse efforts to legalize same-sex marriage. Most Reconstructionist rabbis perform Jewish same-sex weddings and the Reconstruction Rabbi's Manual includes gay Jewish wedding ceremonies. Renewal rabbis also perform same-sex weddings. Reform Judaism does not issue rulings and only puts out guidelines. Current Reform guidelines support the legalization of gay secular marriage and allow rabbis to perform gay Jewish weddings or commitment ceremonies at the discretion of the individual rabbis. Many Reform rabbis do, and there are even explicitly GLBT Reform synagogues, most notably Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in San Francisco.

Other Jewish groups believe religious law is binding and literal, but even these communities have diverse opinions on same-sex relationships. Conservative Judaism holds that Torah law must be followed and cannot be changed. For this reason, Conservative Jews generally keep kosher and observe Shabbat, and Conservative rabbis do not perform weddings for interfaith couples. Yet in

2006, Conservative Judaism began allowing rabbis to perform commitment ceremonies for same-sex Jewish couples, according to the discretion of the officiating rabbi. The panel of rabbis who made the decision did not endorse gay marriage and no rabbi is required to perform commitment ceremonies. Orthodox Judaism believes both the Torah and oral law, such as the Talmud, to be binding. Not surprisingly, the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America publically rejects both civil and religious same-sex marriage. Still, there are a small number of Orthodox groups calling for greater inclusion of gays and lesbians.

## Native American

Native American religions vary on gay marriage, which is legal under tribal law in many Native communities but forbidden under Navajo law. Some tribes traditionally accepted "Two Spirits" and same-sex relationships, although that is no longer the case for many tribes today, largely because of missionary influence.

## Wicca

In 2008 Covenant of the Goddess, a national organization for Wiccan congregations and practitioners, released a statement in support of same-sex marriage. The press release stated, "Covenant of the Goddess has, since its inception in 1975, had clergy willing to celebrate the religious if not the legal joining of two members of the same gender." It went on to explain that the earliest same-sex marriages were Pagan unions in ancient Greece and Rome.

Not all Wiccans are completely accepting of gay relationships. Since balance of polarity is important, some see a male/female union as necessary. However, O'Gaea, the senior Corresponding Priestess of the Neo-Pagan group Mother Earth Ministries (MEM), explains that male and female energy are present in everyone and balance does require opposite sex partnership. O'Gaea describes homosexuality as "a perfectly natural variation of human sexuality." In an introductory booklet to Wicca, O'Gaea and MEM president Carol Garr write, "In Wicca, sexuality is an affirmation of life, and therefore sacred." Since there is no problem with sexuality, including GLB sexuality, affirming it in marriage is welcome.

Simply, there is no singular "religious" position on same-sex marriage. Religions are made up of individuals with diverse opinions and ways of understanding and living their faith. Many find no conflict between their beliefs and the marriage of loving couples.



Natalie Wendt is a busy queer mom who sometimes writes. She graduated from College of Santa Fe with a Bachelor's degree in education, and San Francisco State University with a Master of Arts - MA Special Education and Teaching. She has worked as a special education teacher and Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She lives with her family in the San Francisco Bay Area.



# Without Compromise



by Liz Bell

“We could look in Grays Harbor.”

I remember the way my wife’s face lit up when I mentioned it. She wanted so, so badly to buy a home, and our rent in Everett was skyrocketing each year. We just couldn’t justify nearly \$2,400 a month for 880 square feet.

In our mid-20s with little savings, we attended home-buying classes and spoke with lending agents and realtors. Every appointment left us disappointed. The amount we could afford to borrow wouldn’t buy us anything in Snohomish County, or in most of the Seattle area. We were at a breaking point. Our next option was moving to the Midwest where we grew up (and where the same amount of money could buy us a mansion), but one thing kept making us hesitate.

Would we be comfortable?

She is a butch lesbian, and I am non-binary - that is, I am neither a man nor a woman. In unfamiliar territory I don’t so much mind pretending to be a woman - I’ve had a lot of practice and I’m very good at it now - but I don’t want to pretend. Even with the compromise of hiding my gender identity, it might not be enough. I would still like to hold my wife’s hand in the grocery store without catching a dirty look or a muttered comment or something worse.

Western Washington we knew was fairly safe, and we were desperate to stay. When homes in Grays Harbor popped up within our price range it felt like a light shining through the clouds. We

called our Everett-area real estate broker, who had all but given up on us, and asked if she could recommend anybody in the area.

“Oh, I have just the guy! You’ll love him!” Her voice got giggly in that conspiratory, well-meaning straight woman way, “He’s gay!”

“Okay,” we said, “... Is he a good real estate broker?”

And so, we met Dan, who is gay and also a fantastic real estate broker, and the house-hunt began. The drive to Ocean Shores is about three hours from Everett, so we went on weekend getaways of house-hunting marathons. In between these weekends, we excitedly told everyone of our moving plans.

“Oh,” a friend said, his dejected tone didn’t so much match my giddy one, “Are you sure? My brother lived there, but it wasn’t very gay-friendly.”

From then on, I was on guard. Would I have to compromise anyways? Would a compromise even be enough? I didn’t want to put my Girl Hat on indefinitely. I asked Dan what he thought about the area, I asked the barista at the coffee shop with the pride pin what they thought about the area, I scoured shop windows for pride flags or those “You are safe here” stickers.

In the meantime, we started preparing. We had found the perfect place and made an offer, and the job hunt began in earnest while we waited and negotiated.

I interviewed at a lot of places, many of which were happy to do interviews remotely given I was still living in Everett. I had taken the pronouns off of my Zoom profile, nervous that they would

“She is a butch lesbian, and I am non-binary - that is, I am neither a man nor a woman.

In unfamiliar territory I don’t so much mind pretending to be a woman - I’ve had a lot of practice and I’m very good at it now - but I don’t want to pretend.

Even with the compromise of hiding my gender identity, it might not be enough. I would still like to hold my wife’s hand in the grocery store without catching a dirty look or a muttered comment or something worse.”

- Liz Bell

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

North Beach School District Board candidate Joe Lomedico reached out to *Coastal Pride* following the publication of the previous July/August issue. In that issue, candidates were invited to respond to five questions impacting our LGBTQA community. *Coastal Pride* didn't hear back from Mr. Lomedico in time to include his responses in the previous issue, but agreed to publish his responses below in this issue.

As with the other North Beach School District and City Council candidates who previously responded - *Coastal Pride* appreciates their engagement on these issues and thoughtful responses.

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North Beach School District Board, District 4

Candidate  
**Joe Lomedico**

*1. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LGBTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/LGBTQ communities?*

Over my lifetime I couldn't tell you any certain experiences working with anyone from the LGBTQ Community, because I've never found it any different then working with anyone else. In the end we all have the right to be happy with who we are.

I do take pride in knowing that multiple people have felt comfortable knowing that they can come to me and tell me their personal identity or sexual orientation when they couldn't to others.

*2. What are your thoughts on the record number of anti-trans bills across the country, especially ones that target their healthcare?*

Just like with most things, I think the government needs to stay out of issues that deal with personal rights. The pursuit of happiness is our given right. That's not just for some people, but for all people.

*3. Are there any aspects of LGBT education within your school district that you would wish/try to change during your term?*

My belief when it comes to any and all topics being taught in school, we should be teaching the honest and accurate accounts of the subjects we teach. This includes LGBT education.

*4. What are your thoughts on restricting discussion about race, gender identity and sexual orientation in public schools?*

Public education should be set up for ALL kids to succeed. No matter race, gender identity, or sexual orientation. This is the time when kids are trying to figure who they are. It is not the job of the staff to push them in any direction. It is their job to teach and nurture the students so they can figure out for themselves.

*5. What are your thoughts on banning books, particularly those with content that include sexual orientation and gender identity?*

This topic for our school district is an even bigger issue, because our Jr/Hs doesn't even have a library which I believe is a main factor in our insanely low reading levels. So we cant even get to the discussion of what books should be allowed, because first we need to have a library to fill with books.

As for my thoughts on books, I am very much against the banning of books. The 1st Amendment is by far the most important one and what separates us from so many other countries.

Contact information:  
r.lomedico@hotmail.com  
425-503-6431



Register as a Washington State voter online at <https://voter.votewa.gov>, or in person with a Voter Registration form available at the Ocean Shores Library, 573 Point Brown Ave, SNW, Ocean Shores, WA 98569, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Tuesday-Saturday.

# Pride on the Beach

Ocean Shores Pride Committee's 3rd Annual

## Pride Bonfire Beach Gathering



2013 Pride Bonfire Beach Gathering near the Taurus Beach approach.

by Mike Schultz  
photos by Matt Cyphert

A county-wide burn ban and a cool drop in temperature didn't deter a crowd of 40-60 participants in the 3rd Annual Pride Bonfire & Gathering on the beach in Ocean Shores, Saturday evening, August 5th. Participants creatively improvised with informal activities, dancing, and mingling in lieu of an actual bonfire.

This year's event was organized by the Ocean Shores Pride Committee spearheaded by Dana Clark who noted, "It was cold, windy and damp... and we still created so much queer joy!". Participants who setup included

Darrell Green and guest, Todd Hamilton, Armando Plaster, Carmen Noguer & Dane, & Mithias Crescentson - with an honorable mention to Carmen & Dane as the last two left taking down the hexagon.

"I think the gathering was a show of community that has a ripple effect out into our individual lives of connectivity and confidence", Clark notes, adding, "The energy of the Pride Bonfire was infectious. It's amazing how a single event can make you feel so proud, inspired, and ready to make a difference."

The Ocean Shores Pride Committee is looking forward to organizing next year's 4th Annual Ocean Shores Pride Bonfire.

"Being part of the Pride Bonfire event reminded me that I'm not alone. The sense of unity and acceptance was incredibly empowering."

- Dana Clark

### Contributors:

DJ Mia Ohms, aka Carmen Noguer - Music, hexagon structure with lights and propane fire pit.

Todd Hamilton - Flameless fire.

Armando Plaster & Todd Hamilton - Facebook & Instagram ads that reached thousands.

Sarah Goff - Snacks & mocktail punch.

Niko Laranang - Balloon decorations, kite and other activities/games that were fun and appropriate for the beach and parking assistance.

Mel DeVore - Portable power, canopy, and extra blankets to keep warm.

Coastal Pride - Glow sticks.



Dana Clark, at the helm of Ocean Shores Pride Committee.



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- ~Roasted Garlic Cheesecake~
- & more

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# Updates...

Updates to articles previously published in Coastal Pride..

## Lady Washington won't be at Pride Festival.



Tall ship Lady Washington's schedule changed. She will not be in Aberdeen during Grays Harbor Pride Festival, September 23rd. More on Lady Washington can be found online at: <https://historicalseaport.org>

Original article: July/August issue, page 21

## FLAG has a new final installation location.



The final location for the Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG) was changed from the Ocean Shores Library to 438 Dolphin Ave NE in Ocean Shores.

Original article: July/August issue, page 31

# Misc...

## Ocean Shores ballot drop box has changed location.



Ocean Shores ballot deposit box moved from in front of the Convention Center to in front of the Police Station at 577 Point Brown Ave NW, Ocean Shores. The ballot deposit box will be opened 18 days prior to election(s) and closes at 8:00 PM on Election Day.

# Survey says...

Since the end of May, *Coastal Pride* has collected anonymous online surveys on its website. Questions varied from demographics to personal interests. The tabulated results of those survey questions, through July 31st, follows. If you haven't completed an online survey yet, jump over to [www.coastalpride.net](http://www.coastalpride.net) and complete the quick anonymous survey. These numbers will be updated in the months ahead.



## Primary Zip Code

- 51% 98569 Ocean Shores
- 23% 98520 Central Park
- 10% 98550 Hoquiam
- 7% 98571 Pacific Beach
- 3% 98535 Copalis Beach
- 3% 98118 Seattle
- 3% 98106 Seattle

## Gender

- 59% Male
- 35% Female
- 3% Transgender
- 3% Non-Binary

## Sexual Orientation

- 54% Gay
- 23% Lesbian
- 13% Bisexual
- 10% Straight

## Age Bracket

- 0% Under 18
- 3% 18-30
- 10% 31-40
- 27% 41-50
- 17% 51-60
- 30% 61-70
- 13% 71-80
- 0% Over 80

## Household Gross Annual Income

- 14% Under \$25,000
- 7% \$25,001 - \$50,000
- 7% \$50,001 - \$75,000
- 19% \$75,001 - \$100,000
- 15% \$100,001 - \$150,000
- 19% \$150,001 - \$200,000
- 19% Over \$200,000

## Adults in Household

- 14% 1
- 79% 2
- 7% 3

## Relationship Status

- 81% Married
- 15% Single
- 4% Partnered

## How "OUT" Are You

- 70% Totally
- 29% To some people
- 0.5% To all but family
- 0.5% Not at work

## Registered Voter

- 100.0% Yes
- 0.0% No

## Political Affiliation

- 65% Democrat
- 16% Independent
- 16% Other
- 3% Republican

## Spiritual Affiliation

- 24% Agnostic
- 21% Spiritual but not religious
- 17% Athiest
- 14% Christian
- 10% Wicca
- 7% Buddhist
- 7% Other

## Most important local voting issue (similar responses are consolidated):

- 13% • Homelessness.
- 9% • Equal Rights.
- 4% • LGBT Resources.
- 4% • Mayor Election.
- 4% • NB School District Board.
- 4% • Election.
- 4% • Local Infrastructure & Improvements.
- 4% • Maintaining Services.
- 4% • Protecting our Waterways.
- 4% • Revitalization of Aberdeen.
- 4% • School Improvement.
- 4% • Taxes.
- 4% • Honesty.
- 4% • Too much construction with empty houses.
- 4% • Uncontrolled housing expansion - multi-unit.
- 4% • Emergency Preparedness.
- 4% • Communication & Transparency.
- 4% • Corruption.
- 4% • Less county and city oversight over everything a homeowner does.

**Most important national voting issue** (similar responses are consolidated):

- 14% • LGBT Rights.
- 11% • Human Rights.
- 11% • All Rights.
- 7% • Voting Rights.
- 7% • Abortion.
- 7% • President.
- 4% • Equality.
- 4% • Anti-Hate.
- 4% • Transgender Rights.
- 4% • Healthcare.
- 4% • Taxes.
- 4% • Election Integrity.
- 4% • Economy.
- 4% • Removing Trump.
- 4% • Stopping the Republicans from taking everyone's rights away (abortion, voting, everything).
- 4% • Stopping corruption in politics.

**What GLBT resource would you most like to see in your local community?**

- Pride office and safe spaces.
- Any and all, I'm not even sure what we have available.
- A Center for everyone.
- Offer Activities.
- Support for youth.
- Things posted off of social media, more community get together.
- More inclusive events.
- More ways to Connect.
- Community outreach and programs.
- Cohesiveness.
- A community resource center of some sort.
- Community Resource Center or Resource Events.
- LGBTQI+ Senior Housing.
- Safe Spaces.
- Friends.
- Gay Bar.
- Game nights/social events year round.
- I am an ally, and just want to see more support.
- I'm not sure yet, we just moved here.
- Focus Groups.
- More Meetup Groups.

# Early peek into some Coastal Pride stats.

by Mike Schultz, Publisher

*Coastal Pride* was launched out of the blue in May 2023. The June publication was issue #1, with July/August following as issue #2. I like to approach subjects through the lens of quantifiable data, and from that measure the results through trends and context.

WIX, industry leading website hosting platform in which *Coastal Pride* website is created, isn't yet able to track the number of PDF downloads from its platform. Until that is enabled, we can extrapolate a sense of this publication's circulation and Readers Per Copy (RPC) of PDF downloads and views based on website visits.

Historically, the general guideline for determining RPC is to take the printed issues in circulation and multiply by 2.5 (recognizing

that for each issue out there, 2.5 people will see it). If we apply that guideline to this publication's website visits, assuming each visitor to the website is there to download an issue, and each download constitutes an issue in circulation (viewed and forwarded), average circulated RPC for the first two issues is well over 900 readers each. Not bad for right out of the gate.

Additional updates will be provided in the months ahead but for now, below, please find the beginning stats as they apply to the first two issues.

## Website stats...

Some website traffic statistics for the first two issues of *Coastal Pride*. (Note: Seattle shows a lot of interest in Ocean Shores' LGBTQA community.)

Visits	769
Unique Visitors	577

## Views by Traffic Source

Facebook	513
Direct	410
Google	131
osgov.com	27
Bing	15

## Page views >5 by US city

Ocean Shores	352
Seattle	304
Aberdeen	121
Unknown	82
Cheyenne, WY	41
Des Moines	18
Tacoma	17
Sacramento, CA	16
Escondido, CA	14
Orange, CA	11
Olympia	8
Bothell	8
Federal Way	8
Portland, OR	7
Hoquiam	7
San Antonio, TX	6



## Email stats...

Email marketing statistics for the first two issues of *Coastal Pride*.

### June Issue

Email Recipients	380
Email Open Rate	48%

### July/August Issue

Email Recipients	424
Email Open Rate	72%

scare off potential employers. Then I joined a call with two interviewers, both with their pronouns on their names, and I immediately noticed:

“(they/them)”

My canned interview introduction went out the window.

“Oh, wow, hi- I’m so sorry, I just- I saw your pronouns and- I’m also they/them, wow, that’s just so good to- I’m sorry, I’m normally way better than this.”

“It’s okay,” they were grinning wildly, “you can add your pronouns to your name, if you want.”

“Yeah, I usually- usually I have them on there, but when I’m interviewing, I take them off because I just-”

“You never know, right?”

“Right, yeah. I’m babbling.”

“I totally get it!”

I didn’t need to compromise. We chattered back and forth while waiting for the rest of the team, and suddenly I was so much more comfortable. It was a snowball effect of positivity; I got the job despite my babbling, Dan invited us to a Facebook group for local LGBTQ people, and we began moving into our new home.

Since then, I’ve met multiple other non-binary people. I’ve attached my little “they/them” tag to my work lanyard. My wife and I held an open house, and our neighbors were incredibly friendly and welcoming. We attended a gay barbecue where my roasted potatoes were a hit. I worked

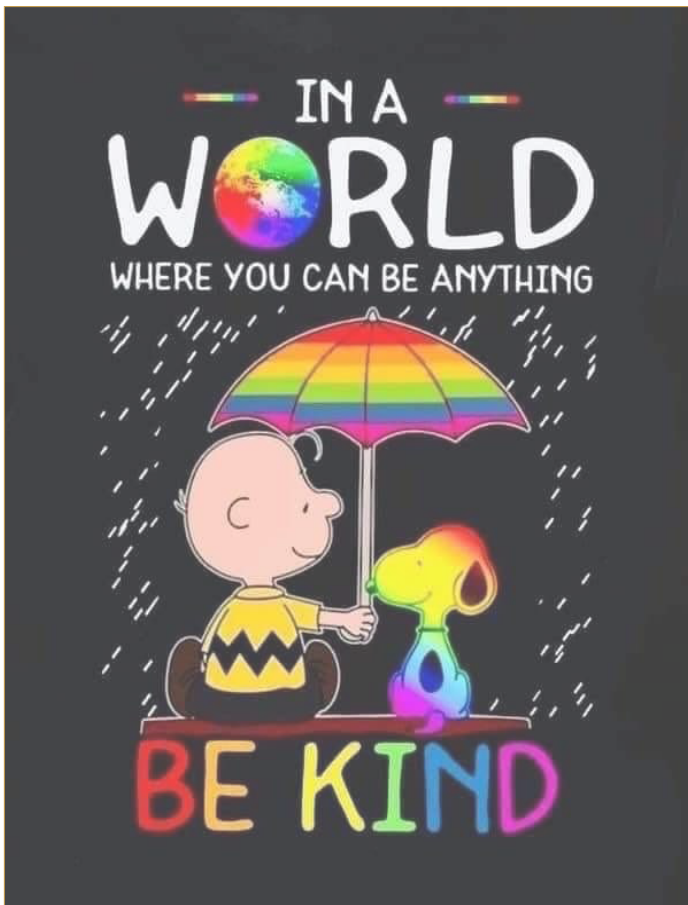
with a city councilor who happily chatted with me about Grays Harbor Pride.

I’m here. I own a home. I am non-binary.

I live in Grays Harbor, and I do so without compromise.



After moving to Grays Harbor in April of 2023, Liz has spent most of their time getting familiar with the area. By day they act as a county “Digital Navigator,” helping people access technology and digital skills. By night they enjoy writing and gaming with their wife.





# Feeling the future in the past

by Gary Douglas Lennon

## INTRODUCTION

I've been doing journalism since about 1988. I was with a publishing Company on Long Island, NY mainly contributing as a photographer, but I had things to say about every shoot I did and learned how important the word is when accompanied by a photograph. An explanation, a story maybe behind the scenes, whatever, people like to know what is going on in a particular photo.

These days just writing is enough for me. It's one of my artistic passions. I'm not well versed in grammar and spelling (thank you Grammarly) nor am I computer savvy. But I do know how to make a point and provide a personal POV.

This edition's main focus is on Equal Marriage. I didn't have to write about this as I'm sure there are plenty of other people more experienced in the topic. But I would like to express perhaps a different view on it. And being an equalist at heart, it seems a comfortable subject to get involved in.

I've never been a big proponent of marriage of any sort, looking at it as a legal contract that affords certain financial rights and tax incentives etc. And really, I feel if two people want to share a life together they should just make their own arrangements and do it.

But in the past five years or so, I began to realize that the love factor was involved, and isn't that what we all want to prove to each other, I mean couples, proving their love as well as their rights as human beings. It all starts to become a bigger picture. To be denied this right is absolutely absurd. Who figures this stuff out in the moral sense? What politician or lawmaker can actually decide what's right for some people and wrong for others? And about the religious factor.... there are still some devout purveyors of established organized religion that do not allow equal marriage to anyone. Well, it happens. Shamefully, but it happens.

In a world so crushed by some very serious events and a government in chaos I think love and peace is a very welcome breath of fresh air. If the Government recognizes the

separation of church and state, then it should recognize the reparations of social reform and equality. For those who want to share their lives with another through an institution that's now open for all.... by all means... go for it. Keep it preserved and always speak up if anything changes about it that jeopardizes anyone's well-being.

This brings me in closing to remind everyone that we live for the purpose of *living*. Nothing more, nothing less. What expands from that while we are here is an opportunity to experience all the good we can find and shower the universe around us with the embers of that positivity. For all.



Gary Douglas Lennon lives in Aberdeen, WA, but hails from New York (the burbs of Long Island, East Rockaway, a historic bay town on the south coast).

He began a passion for photography in 1986, painting in 2013, and writing since 1989. A descendant of Sir Walter Scott, he is currently working on a book of short stories titled "The Shirtless Man" and a Biographical Metaphysical journey from NY to WA. circa 2009.

Interview with award-winning  
science fiction & fantasy author

# RAVEN OAK



“My childhood being what it was, the LGBTQ+ community is a found family, a chosen family. If anything, being part of this community has helped my career rather than harmed it. Some of that comes with writing speculative fiction—I mean, we’re usually a pretty unique group as it is! Lots of neurospicy folks and people who don’t fit in to a lot of society’s ideals of “normalcy.” So many of us in the queer community are only here by the skin of our teeth, you know? We’ve survived so much and are still surviving. Still fighting for equity.”

-Raven Oak



by C. S Anderson

I first met Raven Oak at a convention, I was a green newbie author doing my first round of events and they were already a seasoned veteran. I mean, come on this author has been published on the moon! For details on that check out their website ([www.ravenoak.net](http://www.ravenoak.net)) We had some mutual friends and I ended up reading Raven’s books and following their career. Recently they graciously agreed to this interview.

C.S - So on your author page you list yourself as an Author, Activist and Artist. Let us take those one at a time and tell us what each of those means to you. Let’s start with the author.

Raven - I’ve been a writer since I could speak—in fact, I like to refer to myself as a professional liar, a term that stems back to childhood when I was forever making up stories to get out of trouble. If I tore my shirt, it was because I was slaying dragons, not because I fell out of a tree. These days, I get paid to make things up, which I much prefer. I love the experience of building worlds and universes from scratch. I grew up in an abusive household where I didn’t have control over my world, so I suspect I enjoy the level of control I have in writing. World building is a place of healing for me.

RAVEN - To Next Page

## RAVEN - From Previous Page

### C.S - Artist?

*Raven* - Art is the opposite. That's a place where I relinquish control and explore my emotions in a different way. Art allows me to express what words cannot. I've been drawing and painting since childhood as well, but it has been only recently that I've taken my art seriously enough to release into the world. I was convinced for a long time that while I could spin a tale, I couldn't paint one. Now I know better!

### C.S - Activist?

*Raven* - Like many people, activism was born out of necessity—first as a survivor of abuse and sexual assault, and then as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Speaking out gave child-me a voice after many years of not having one. Representation allows others to exist, to find themselves, and to potentially escape or avoid some of the scenarios I found myself in. Growing up in an evangelical household meant I never had the ability or the permission to find myself, let alone the vocabulary to identify who I am. I didn't know I was demisexual until I reached my 30's because I didn't know the word existed. Same with being pan and nonbinary. In its many forms, activism allows us to reach people like child-me and save lives. In my mind, there's nothing more important than that. I think that's why what I write is more character-driven and thought-provoking. I want to create worlds where representation is important, and people can exist as themselves (or fight for that right!). I want to encourage the change I wish to see in our world.

C.S - What challenges has being part of the LGBTQ+ community presented for your professional career?

*Raven* - My childhood being what it was, the LGBTQ+ community is a found family, a chosen family. If anything, being part of this community has helped my career rather than harmed it. Some of that comes with writing speculative fiction—I mean, we're usually a pretty unique group as it is! Lots of neurospicy folks and people who don't fit in to a lot of society's ideals of "normalcy." So many of us in the queer community are only here by the skin of our teeth, you know? We've survived so much and are still surviving. Still fighting for equity. When I was still teaching at public school down south, I was in the closet because it wasn't safe to be out and a teacher. It still isn't. The horror stories I could tell... times I almost lost my job because I stood up for my queer students or times when my life was literally threatened by colleagues... but within the SF/F community, I haven't had any issues being a queer writer. If I've ever been denied publication for being me, I've never known about it. I think some of this comes with living in the Pacific NW as well. It's easier being out up here than other areas of the country. I think location and genre has made a positive impact on my career trajectory. I'm lucky in that respect.

C.S - What was your first published book? What is your most recent?

*Raven* - Technically, my first published book was a children's book about a lion that I wrote and illustrated when I was 7 years old. It was published as part of a university study on children's literacy. I'm not sure that counts though, so I guess my first professional novel published was Amaskan's Blood, Book I of the Boahim Trilogy. It's epic fantasy and often compared to "if George R. R. Martin wrote Disney's Tangled." My most recent publications are two

short story collections: Dragon Springs & Other Things is a collection of my fantasy and urban fantasy shorts while Spaceships & Other Trips is a collection of my sci-fi and horror-esque short stories.

C.S - Been a pleasure chatting with you Raven, one last bit for the article. You get one moment on the soapbox of your choice to address any issue or cause that you want.

*Raven* - You know, I feel like everything boils down to one word: Love. If we love one another, then equity takes care of itself, as does poverty, war, and everything in between. It's hard to love someone who hates you. It's hard to love yourself sometimes too. But if we could reach the point where we truly understand that we're all stuck on this pale blue dot together, for better or worse, wouldn't you rather it be the former? That we learn to care for one another? Love is a powerful tool and a challenging one to use, but it really does solve everything, simplistic though it may seem.

C.S - Highly recommend Raven's books to all lovers of speculative fiction!

[https://www.amazon.com/Raven-Oak/e/B00P5PT4AM/ref=dp\\_byline\\_cont\\_ebooks\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/Raven-Oak/e/B00P5PT4AM/ref=dp_byline_cont_ebooks_1)



C. S. Anderson has been writing since he could form letters. He currently resides in a strange little beach town with his extremely patient wife who also has the misfortune of being his editor.



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We meet every week, encouraging community involvement in the decisions affecting city projects, infrastructure, budgets, taxes, public safety and community services.

Community Voices  
promotes ideas and innovative solutions.

# “Shiver Me Timbers, A Pirate’s Life for Me”

## The Caribbean in the 1700’s

### Poem excerpt from *And Man Made God In His Image*

Introduction from *Ocean Shores* author David Clark Done

The chapters of my book *And Man Made God In His Image* carry one unifying theme: opposition to institutional oppression and hatred spread across the world and throughout history. While it is a “historical” book, it is not an essay. There are no footnotes, and no bibliography. It has been written using a combination of prose and poetry. I have tried to avoid flowery writing. I am following a literary tradition that calls for lines of poetry to be like “diamonds.” The idea is that the lines must be written in such a way that they become hard and clear, like the most valuable diamonds. My idea is to present this history in a personal, bonding way, one that will allow the reader to feel what has happened with absolute clarity.



Poem by David Clark Done

As a child I wandered the streets  
Of London, homeless and without ties  
Stealing what I could, begging alms  
and taking what was offered.

Little ever came my way, so  
As a young man, devoid of chances  
I went to sea in the English navy  
and served at the whim of old men.

I scrubbed decks on my hands and  
knees  
Until I caught the eye of an officer  
Who bade me come to his cabin  
And took from me all that he could.

His was a cruelty without bounds,  
A lust without limits and  
No one cared or dared  
To bring him to heel!

I was held in captivity,  
always kept on board  
Locked up and always alone  
Never allowed to go ashore.

Many came and went in service  
Of the King, some told tall tales  
and stories of a life sailing free  
With the masters of the sea,

In low voices with their whispers  
quiet below the waves that rocked  
Our hulls, they mapped out a course  
For me to take, an escape

From the slavery of the sea.  
And so one moonless night  
anchored in the shallows.  
I took heart, and dove in,

And swam my way ashore!  
I was young with muscles made  
Firm from work with a heart  
Hardened like steel to resist

The tyranny of the crown!  
I wandered the island rounds  
Until I found entry to a pirate  
Band of manly men all bound

To serve one another  
And share in all the gains  
And bounty of their trade  
As equal brothers in arms

swearing fidelity to the  
Pirates code, holding fast  
To its rules, honoring it  
and acting as if we were

Of one mind and one soul.  
A code which declared that  
Every man had a vote  
In the affairs of every moment!

And each man had a right  
To all food and supplies  
And to all strong liquors  
And a share of plunder gained

And every man pledged to fight  
And hold his ground until death  
And to remain loyal to the

Code and his brothers forever.

These were the pirates of the sea  
Men without countries  
Men without families  
Living under the pirate flag!  
These were the men of Matelotage  
Or pirate couples who shared  
Affection and all possessions  
While pledging their lives and loves

Together, as one being, married  
With one face standing in defense  
Of each other, protecting each other  
As they fought side by side in battle,

Having a “mate” was personal  
And professional, a vow  
that pirates made, and the word “mate”  
traces to the marriage of men

To men, living in pirate clans  
That were born to steal  
on the high seas  
And thrive outside the law!

These bands, thousands strong  
Lived to plunder and pillage  
And love and thunder  
Under the sun, outside the law!

So I record these words,  
Of freedom from tyranny,  
Of living a life under the sign  
of the skull and bones!

And yes I sing aloud  
Yo, Ho a Pirate’s life for me!  
Yo, Ho a Pirate’s life for me!  
A Pirate’s life for me!

*And Man Made God In His Image* is currently available on Amazon, will be available for .99 cents on Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) for five days, from August 30th - September 3rd, and is free for anyone with Kindle Unlimited.



David Clark Done, an Ocean Shores resident, holds a degree in English with a concentration in poetics. He is retired from a career in international shipping and began writing full time five years ago. He is also an actor having performed numerous times at Stage West Community Theater.

# Inside *Matelotage*, The Same-Sex Partnerships Between Colonial-Era Pirates

During the Golden Age of Piracy, some buccaneers engaged in *matelotage*, a form of civil union. Sometimes these arrangements were purely financial — but often they were affectionate, romantic, or sexual.



Pirate symbols and myths are strong, but there are fascinating under-discussed elements to their communities, like *matelotage*.

by Andrew Milne | Edited by John Kuroski  
Published on All That's Interesting, <https://allthatsinteresting.com/matelotage>

Pirates have been an endless source of fascination for centuries — their rootless ways, their quests for treasure, and their sophisticated and stateless societies hold a strong appeal. But one little known aspect of their culture is *matelotage* — a sort of pirate civil union.

In pirate communities of the 17th and 18th centuries, ships were male-dominated, tightly packed, and the ship's crew largely formed their own mores and rules. *Matelotage* developed in that environment where crew mates often knew one another more intimately than the wives and children they'd left behind on land.

In some cases, *matelotage* was affectionate, even fraternal; in others, it was romantic and sexual.

But regardless of the nature of each relationship, pirates took the bonds of *matelotage* very seriously.

As far as historians can tell, *matelotage* began during the 1600s. The word derives from the French *matelot*, which means sailor or seaman. "Matey" likely also derives from *matelot*, making it a sort of cousin-word to *matelotage*.

It's believed that *matelotage* began as a strictly economic partnership. One pirate would agree with another that they could inherit the lion's share of their fortune after leaving "part to the dead man's friends or to his wife," according to *The Invisible Hook* by Peter T. Leeson. Some historians describe it as something like an informal will.

While a work of fiction, Édouard

Corbière's 1832 novel, *Le Négrier*, produces a definition of *matelotage*: "This *amatelotage* of sailors among themselves, this *hammock camaraderie*, establishes a type of solidarity and commonality of interests and of goods between each man and his *matelot*."

In *Sodomy and the Pirate Tradition: English Sea Rovers in the Seventeenth Century Caribbean*, Professor Barry Richard Burg writes that *matelotage* was "an institutionalized linking of buccaneer and another male — most often a youth — in a relationship with clearly homosexual characteristics."

This arrangement could sometimes parallel the pederastic relationships of ancient Greece. Young *matelots* explicitly traded sex for stability, advancement,

**PIRATES-** To Next Page

## PIRATES - From Previous Page

and often money. Other forms of *matelotage* were built around passengers or sailors trading sexual favors for food, security, or as a form of payment for outstanding debts.

These relationships clearly offered benefits to both parties, but how widespread were they really?

*Matelotage* manifested in many different ways, but among pirates in the Caribbean in the 18th century, it generally denoted a sexual relationship. Even Captain Robert Culliford, the English pirate who defied Captain Kidd, engaged in the practice.

A register from *Calendar of State Papers: Colonial Series* records a John Swann, who was known as a "great consort of [Captain] Culliford's, who lives with him." The note is ambiguous, but clearly a relationship greater than economic convenience had developed between the sailors.

Jealousy and passion were often interwoven in *matelotage*. The entanglement of money, love, and sex on a pirate ship was bound to end in calamity from time to time.


Though the bonds of *matelotage* were respected on board pirates' ships, same-sex unions were still highly stigmatized on land. All but the wealthy elite could be jailed or even killed for homosexuality.

Even in the pirate world, homosexuality wasn't quite accepted as the norm. In Tortuga, a hotspot for buccaneers in the Caribbean, Governor Le Vasseur wrote to France in 1645 requesting that the government send 2,000 prostitutes to the colony, in hopes that the presence of more women would curb the prevalence of *matelotage*.

However, the plan backfired when some pirates began marrying prostitutes, only to share them with their *matelotage* partners. It seems the custom offered pirates a kind of security and companionship that they couldn't find onshore and wasn't so easily gotten rid of.

In terms of exactly how common same-sex romance was among pirates, historians today generally believe that rates of homosexuality likely mirrored what would have been found in the population at large. Unfortunately, without written *matelotage* records and only a handful of anecdotes documenting this practice, it's impossible to say just how far-reaching it was.

Ultimately, whether their relationships were romantic or platonic, *matelotage* partnerships gave pirates a modicum of safety as they navigated a life of crime on the high seas.




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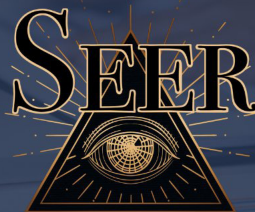
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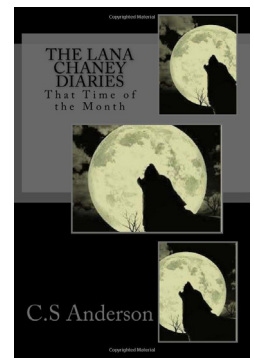
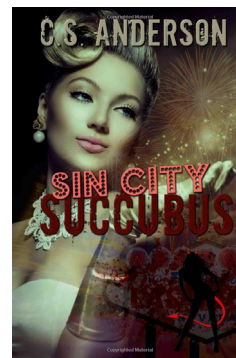
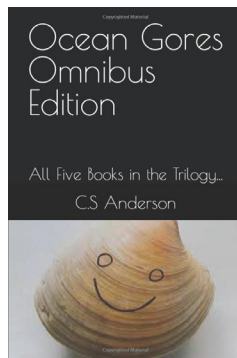
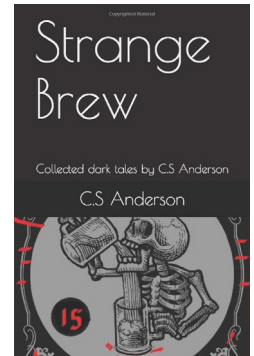
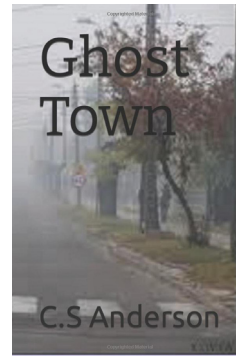
## C. S Anderson

has written 30 books and has been included in a couple dozen anthologies and collections - all of them available on Amazon in Ebook, paperback formats with a growing list available on Audible.

When asked to describe his genre, he notes, "I write in a few genres. Straight up horror, pulpy horror comedy, urban fantasy and science fiction mostly. Some times I throw all these in a blender and hit puree."

Six of his more recent titles are shown to the right.

Amazon link to all of his works: [https://www.amazon.com/s?k=C.+S.+Anderson&crd=2VRIY9XOCX0DN&srefix=c.+s.+anderson%2Caps%2C131&ref=n\\_b\\_sb\\_noss\\_2](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=C.+S.+Anderson&crd=2VRIY9XOCX0DN&srefix=c.+s.+anderson%2Caps%2C131&ref=n_b_sb_noss_2)



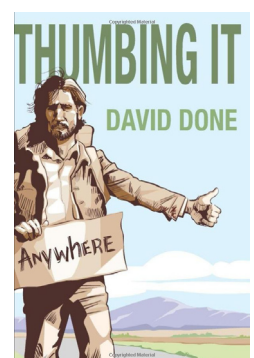
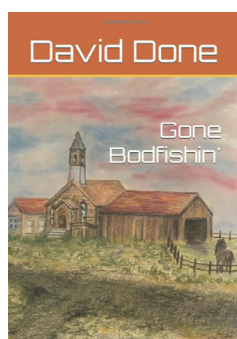
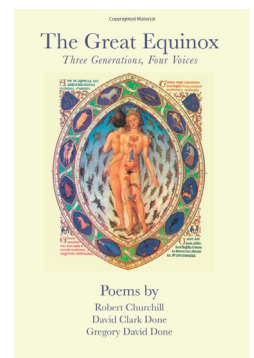
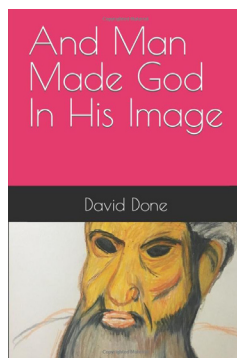
## David Clark Done

has written two novels, a book of short stories plus three more which are poetry, all are available on Amazon.

David doesn't classify his work into genre(s), instead, he writes because it is interesting and important to him.

His six titles are shown to the right.

Amazon link to all of his works: [https://www.amazon.com/stores/David-Clark-Done/author/B083KKDDH3?ref=ap\\_rdr&store\\_ref=ap\\_rdr&isDramIntegrate=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true](https://www.amazon.com/stores/David-Clark-Done/author/B083KKDDH3?ref=ap_rdr&store_ref=ap_rdr&isDramIntegrate=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true)



# YOURS *Tru-ly*



Have you ever wanted to tap into the insight and life experience of a drag queen? Now is your chance! Ask Ocean Shores resident Tru Saint James her insight into your love life, personal conundrums, business challenges, family dynamics and much more. Tru is like Dear Abby with a faster wit and sharper tongue.

Tru Saint James would love to hear from you. She can be reached by email: [publisher@coastalpride.net](mailto:publisher@coastalpride.net). Please note in the Subject Line: "Yours Tru-ly"

Dear Tru,

My son came out of the closet (he just turned 16), and I would like your advice on how I can support him and make him feel comfortable with his decision to tell our family. I don't feel like I am entirely equipped to deal with all of this, and I don't want to make any crucial errors.

- Signed Pride Mom

Dear Pride Mom,

Well, sweetie, let me congratulate you on your newbie gay son. I also want to celebrate you for being an open and supportive parent!

Many newly out LGBTQIA+ kids don't have that courtesy, and some are thrown out to the wolves in today's streets. Your son is so lucky to have you. I would suggest deep breathing and finding youth LGBTQIA+ groups in your area.

Depending on where you live, PFLAG chapters are a great resource, and you get to meet other parents who are in the same space or have been in the same space. This could really be beneficial. They also offer opportunities for your "baby-gay" to meet other queer youth and help establish a sound support system. If there are no PFLAG chapters in your area, look around for other queer groups, pride groups, etc. I am sure you can find something to offer you the support you need!

I know you are worried about "getting it right", but the plain fact you have accepted your child is twenty steps above what some other kids get, and the love and support you offer them is an excellent foundation for your son's journey.

Bravo Pride Mom! Bravo

Yours,  
Tru

**Ocean Shores Fun**

Ocean Shores Fun is a one-stop website for all things eventful in, and around, Ocean Shores, WA.

[www.oceanshores.fun](http://www.oceanshores.fun)

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# Resources

## Events

### Ocean Shores Fun

(Updated July 2023)

Regional

Comprehensive online calendar of regional events, can be filtered by location and LGBTQA specific events.

<https://www.oceanshores.fun>

## Social

### Out & Older in Ocean Shores

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores / North Beach

Private Facebook group fostering community for LGBTQA generally 50 years and older.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/582414015695077>

### LGBTQ+ Family & Allies - Ocean Shores/North Beach

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores / North Beach

Private Facebook group for LGBTQ+ people, their parents, families and allies, resource and support.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/osnballies>

### Ocean Shores/North Beach LGBTQA+

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores / North Beach

Private Facebook group to share events, stories, news, make friends and support.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/osnblgbtq>

## Medical/Mental Health

### BHR

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

Counseling LGBTQ

205 8th St

Hoquiam, WA 98550

800-825-4820

### SeaMar

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Medical and Counseling LGBTQ

1813 Sumner Ave

Aberdeen, WA 98520

360-538-1293

## Advocacy/Outreach

### North Beach Project Connect

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores

Putting you in touch with the information and services you need.

[nbprojectconnect@gmail.com](mailto:nbprojectconnect@gmail.com)

<https://nbprojectconnect.com>

### Harbor Include

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

Harbor Include is a nonprofit organization serving teens between the ages of 13 to 18 years of age that are part of the LGBTQ community and their friends.

[info@harborinclude.com](mailto:info@harborinclude.com)

<http://harborinclude.com>

### CAYA

(Added June 2023)

Come As You Are

206-307-9388

[CAYA4youth@gmail.com](mailto:CAYA4youth@gmail.com)

<https://abelhousefarm.wixsite.com/caya>

### Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Resource Center, Community Outreach and Education

PO Box 173 Hoquiam, WA 98550

360-580-7774

[outproudghc@gmail.com](mailto:outproudghc@gmail.com)

<https://opghc.com>

### Safe Schools Coalition

(Added June 2023)

Anti-bullying, anti-harassment and support for GLBT youth.

888-307-9275

[info@safeschoolscoalition.org](mailto:info@safeschoolscoalition.org)

<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org>

## Churches

### Galilean Lutheran Church

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores

ALL are welcome. Come as you are.

824 Ocean Shores BLV NW

Ocean Shores, WA 98569

[www.galileanlutheranchurch.com](http://www.galileanlutheranchurch.com)

[churchoffice1419@gmail.com](mailto:churchoffice1419@gmail.com)

### Hoquiam Methodist Church

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

Reconciling Church

520 5th St, Hoquiam, WA 98550

360-533-1101

### Aberdeen First Presbyterian

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Open and accepting church.

420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520

360-532-1330

## Emergency/Hotlines

### GH Beyond Survival

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Support for those impacted by sexual abuse.

360-533-9751

888-626-2640 (24-hr crisis line)

[admin@ghbeyondsurvival.com](mailto:admin@ghbeyondsurvival.com)

<http://www.ghbeyondsurvival.com>

### Crisis Clinic Grays Harbor

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

360-538-2889

360-584-6569

### Foster Care Helpline

(Added June 2023)

LGBT youth specifically.

866-LGBTTeen

800-227-8922 (STD Hotline)

### Trevor Helpline

(Added June 2023)

24-hour suicide hotline for LGBT youth.

800-850-8078

<http://www.thetrevorproject.org>

## State

### Equal Rights Washington

(Added June 2023)

Ensure and promote dignity, safety and equality for all LGBTQ Washingtonians.

<https://www.equalrightswashington.org>

## National

### SAGE

(Added June 2023)

Advocacy & Services for LGBTQA+ Elders

<https://www.sageusa.org>

### Movement Advancement Project (MAP)

(Added June 2023)

Independent nonprofit think tank working to create a thriving, inclusive, and equitable America.

<http://www.lbgmap.org>

### Equality Federation

(Added June 2023)

Working collaboratively on critical non-partisan issues that affect how LGBTQ+ people experience the world from cradle to grave.

<https://www.equalityfederation.org>



*Matt Cyphert*

PROFESSIONAL  
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