



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

HeartBeat



Issue 101 ~ September-October, 2010

It's Action Time!

by Gloria Aton

I cannot understand how cruel some people can be while expressing their beliefs and how sure they are about their ideology. They think they have the right to bully others and condemn them. The more self-righteous they feel, the louder and aggressively they talk. Some of these people even cite the Bible or other books as their authority and use them as weapons for their hate campaigns.

Growing up in a very fundamentalist religion, where biblical literalism was the rule and homophobia was a part of the teachings, I'm very familiar with that ideology. However, I always had "common sense" and a curious mind and this led me to question my religion and to find answers which resonate with my heart.

What I've found is a very simple truth, which is written as part of the Constitution, and it's that "All men are created equal." I would change that for "all people" to avoid Constitution literalism, but that's another story.

In essence, "we are all the same." Now, I feel the social responsibility to speak my mind, not in a hate campaign, but in a love campaign. I became a Straight Ally, signed the Straight for Equality Pledge and became a part of PFLAG. (www.straightforequality.org)

Now, more than ever, it's important to support our young generations, to let them know that it's okay to be themselves, to help them blossom in all their colors. To let them know that they do not need to fit a mold that they have the right to explore and find their own self and feel safe to express their personality and creative being to the fullest.

Others have bombarded our gay community with hate and pain; now let's bombard our gay community with love, with support, with collaboration and with joy. I'm inviting you to join PFLAG or other gay-rights organizations, groups, communities or networks.

It's ACTION TIME! Whether you're gay or a straight ally, your experience is a treasure which can enrich other people's lives. Come and share it with us, come to inspire us...we will welcome you with open arms. "Be the change that you want to see in the world." —Mahatma Gandhi



▼ SUNDAY, SEPT. 12, 2-4:30PM

Candidate Forum with a Focus on LGBT Issues

Candidates for city, county and state offices in the November general election will be our guests at the September meeting. Our regular program format will be cut short to allow time for each candidate to speak and for a brief Q&A at the end. Our elections are important. Come to learn, educate, and get involved.

▼ SUNDAY, OCT. 10, 2-4:30PM

Community Gathering

Our invited guests for the October meeting will be representatives from various GLBTQ and ally organizations in the area to tell us all about their programs and answer our questions.



HeartBeat is a free publication of the PFLAG chapter in Olympia, Washington, published six times a year. The editors are Alec & Gabi Clayton.

Unsolicited articles are welcome and are due by the 15th of even-numbered months. The editors reserve the right to reject or edit material.

The deadline for the next issue is 10/15/2010

Mail submissions to:
HeartBeat
P.O. Box 12732
Olympia, WA 98508-2732

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.org

PFLAG—Olympia meeting format

2:00–2:30 p.m.	Introductions
2:30–2:40 p.m.	Announcements
2:40–3:15 p.m.	Support
3:15–3:30 p.m.	Social time/snacks
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Program (see above)

Note: Sometimes we have a longer program time and shorten other parts of the meeting.

In August we meet in a local park instead of at the church, and that meeting is from 1:00–4:30p.m.

The PFLAG Mission

To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through:

- ▼ support, to cope with an adverse society;
- ▼ education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and
- ▼ advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

“Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage; anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.” ~ Augustine of Hippo

Subscribe to the PFLAG-Olympia Alert List!

The PFLAG-Olympia Alert is a one-way announcement email listserv designed to inform our members and friends of upcoming events. To subscribe, go online to:

<http://lists.pflag-olympia.org/listinfo.cgi/alert-pflag-olympia.org>

Some of Our History

In 1972, Jeanne Manford started an international movement when she marched with her son Mortie in New York’s Gay Pride Parade. Enraged that her son had been beaten at a gay rights protest two months before while police did nothing, she carried a sign at the Pride march that said, “Parents of Gays: Unite in Support of Our Children.” After many gay and lesbian people ran up to Jeanne during the parade and begged her to talk to their parents, she decided to begin a support group. The first formal meeting took place in March 1973. Approximately 20 people attended.

By 1980, PFLAG, then known as Parents FLAG, began to distribute information to educational institutions and communities of faith nationwide and established itself as a source of information for the general public. When “Dear Abby” mentioned PFLAG, more than 7,000 letters were received requesting information. In 1981, members decided to launch a national organization.

\NEW or RENEWAL PFLAG MEMBERSHIP

Please check the membership types you prefer:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/Low Income \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate \$500 |

New Renewal

Membership \$ _____

Add this amount as my tax-exempt gift \$ _____

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT \$ _____

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____

Signed: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

- I want Olympia’s bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* print version only.
- I want Olympia’s bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* sent as email only.
- I want Olympia’s bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* both print and email.
- I want to be added to the PFLAG-Olympia email alert list.

PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732
PFLAG is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
not affiliated with any political or religious institution.



PFLAG

Olympia, Washington

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

MEETS at 2PM on the second Sunday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia. It is handicap-accessible.

DIRECTIONS: From Sylvester Park on Capitol Way and Legion Way, go 12 blocks east on Legion Way to Boundary Street. Turn left around the church. Park in the lot at 5th Avenue and Boundary and enter through the glass doors.

Mailing address:
PO Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

For more information
email: **info@pflag-olympia.org**

or go to our website:
http://www.pflag-olympia.org