



HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 103~ January-February, 2011

A grandmother looks at coming out by Donna Doyle



SUNDAY, JAN. 9, 2-4:30PM

Bullied — We will watch and discuss the film *Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case that Made History* a film by Teaching Tolerance/ Southern Poverty Law Center about Jamie Nabozny's groundbreaking federal case against his school district for not protecting him from anti-gay bullying. www.tolerance.org/bullied

SUNDAY, FEB. 13, 2-4:30PM

Roots of Violence — Rosalinda Noriega from Partners in Prevention Education (PiPE) will speak on "The Roots of Violence and Oppression." <https://youthchangeagents.org>

*"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."
~ Alice Walker*

My grandson is gay. He is 19 years old. This past summer we had a conversation about "coming out."

He said a lot of his friends didn't like the idea of "coming out." The objection being that "straight" people don't have to make an issue of telling people they are straight, so why should gay people have to make an issue out of telling people they are gay.

I get their point, and I know that someday sexual orientation will not be the issue it is today. But, in the meantime, I think it is helpful for those in the GLBT community to be visible.

I never knew a gay person until I was in my 20s. Obviously I must have known people who were gay, but I didn't know they were gay. This was in the 1960s and most gay people stayed in the closet.

I grew up in a small town in Maine, and I heard all the stories about how disgusting it was to be gay. I believed it because I didn't know any better.

Then, in the '60s, I had the good fortune to work with a wonderful man named Dorman. I loved him; not in a romantic way, but as a dear friend. One day a co-worker said to me, "Did you know Dorman was gay?" I responded very angrily, "Oh, who told you that?" She said, "Dorman."

The odd thing was that I was not shocked. I was surprised, but I was not shocked. And I knew right then that all the bad things I had believed about gay people were wrong.

That is why I think it is important for people in the GLBT community to be "out there." People need to see that GLBT people are our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, members of our church, our family members.

So thank you to the courageous members of the GLBT community who are willing to put themselves out there to promote a better community for us all.

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 1/15/2011

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 have a picnic in a local park instead of meeting at the church. It's from 1:00–4:00p.m.

*"Don't let fear choose your path."
~ Deb Price*

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.

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>

Adele Starr, PFLAG's First President Died in December

Adele Starr passed away in December. A California mother of a gay son, Starr was PFLAG's first-ever national president and one of the pivotal figures in the establishment of our national organization.

"Adele Starr was one of the pioneers of PFLAG. It is because of her commitment to organizing the many people who were working for the common goal of equality for all into the organization that we now know as PFLAG that we have gained the strength, prominence, and ability to become the voice of parents and allies united for equality," said Jody M. Huckaby, PFLAG National's Executive Director.

Starr's involvement with PFLAG started in 1974 when she and her husband, Larry, had dinner with PFLAG founder Jeanne Manford and her husband, Jules.

After a year of working to encourage attendance, Starr hosted 35 people in her Los Angeles home. This historic meeting served as the basis for the West Coast organizing for PFLAG. In 1981 she was elected to serve as our first national President.



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PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732
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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>