



HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 104- March-April, 2011

Influential Figures of the LGBTQ Rights Movement

by Kathryn Coffman

Have you ever been in a situation when every single person in the room seemingly has something negative to say about you? Perhaps they bully, or even physically abuse you. This is what a boy named Jamie Nabozny endured for four long years. Nabozny was “gay-bashed”—called “fag” and “homo” among other hurtful, homophobic-driven names. He was also kicked, hit, and slammed into school lockers. Another boy even urinated on Nabozny in the boy’s bathroom. Nabozny and his parents made constant attempts to discuss the bullying with school authority—teachers, the principal, even the bully’s parents, but all attempts seemed to fail. Principal of his Wisconsin school, Mary Podlesny, even went as far as to say that if Jamie wasn’t so openly gay, the bullying wouldn’t happen. Podlesny was then sued for money with the criticism that she let the bullying happen. Nabozny won the case with an award of nearly \$1 million in 1996. Jamie Nabozny is now a motivational speaker, and an educational documentary of his experience titled “*Bullied*” has been produced (shown at a recent PFLAG-Olympia meeting). His lawsuit is a groundbreaking court case that helped school districts around the country understand a very simple concept: “If you do not take action to stop it, you can and will be sued.”

Another controversial figure to change the way the U.S. views LGBTQ individuals was Gene Robinson, the very first openly gay, non-celibate priest to ever be ordained a bishop in a Christian church. He was ordained in 2003. Unfortunately, much like a politician, Robinson had to wear bullet-proof vests, and received thousands of letters including death threats, calling him a “fag” and speaking of how a man of Christian faith should not be homosexual, mentioning it was “an abomination.” However, President Barack Obama disagreed, and later asked Robinson to prepare and give the invocation during the first event of the inaugural weekend celebration. Due to numerous threats, insults, harmful accusations and stress of the job, Gene Robinson

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SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2-4:30PM

Capital City Pride Honors

PFLAG — Capital City Pride is coming to our meeting in order to honor us for the work PFLAG has done in the community as a part of Pride's 20th Anniversary series of community events.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13. 2-4:30PM

Roots of Violence

— Rosalinda Noriega from Partners in Prevention Education (PIPE) will speak on “The Roots of Violence and Oppression.” This is the program originally scheduled for the February meeting, which had to be rescheduled.

Rosalinda’s talk will begin at 3 p.m.

For more information go to: <https://youthchangeagents.org>.

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 4/15/2011

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

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.org

PFLAG– Olympia meeting format

We meet the second Sunday of every month from 2-4:30 p.m. except for August. Most meetings begin with introductions and announcements followed by snacks and social time and then the program. This format may vary depending on the time needed for the program.

In August we have a picnic in a local park instead of meeting at the church. It’s from 1:00-4:00p.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.

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>

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announced that he will resign from his post effective January 2013.

Other influential gays and lesbians include Ellen DeGeneres of *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* and Barney Frank, the first openly gay person to serve in the United States Congress. Other acclaimed LGBTQ individuals who were not strictly “gay” or “homosexual”, who shaped America in other ways include Madonna, William Shakespeare, Alexander the Great, Emily Dickinson, and Socrates, as mentioned in Paul Russell’s book *The Gay 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Gay Men and Lesbians, Past and Present*.

The Laramie Project

at Shelton High School

Shelton High School presents “The Laramie Project” by Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project, taken from transcripts of interviews with the citizens of Laramie, Wyoming after the murder of Matthew Shepherd.

This school performance is produced and directed by Ricky S. Manthey and portrayed by members of the Shelton High School Equality Club and SHS staff, family and friends.

Friday and Saturday, March 11-12 at 7 p.m.
Shelton High School — 3737 N. Shelton Springs Rd.

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: _____

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PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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- I want Olympia’s bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* print version only.
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- 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
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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>