



# HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 109 ~ January-February 2012

## Equal Marriage Rights in 2012

The next major push for full equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in Washington state is the right to marry the person you love. It's as simple as that, a basic civil right that should be granted to all citizens. The newly formed Washington PFLAG state counsel, which was formed specifically so PFLAG chapters across the state could speak as a unified group, has signed on as partners with Equal Rights Washington and Washington United for Marriage in calling for equal marriage rights.

We should have won the battle in court but the Supreme Court of Washington State said no. In a 5-4 split decision handed down on July 26, 2006 the court held that the state legislature is permitted under Washington's constitution to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples. While the state's ban on same-sex marriage was upheld, the court noted that its ruling does not prevent the legislature from changing state law to allow same-sex marriage, and three majority justices in the case invited the legislature to take another look at the ban's effect on same-sex couples.

The justices who voted against same sex marriage stated that their vote was based on the idea that children need to be raised in homes with a mother and a father and on the proven false assumption that same sex parents are not good parents, ignoring the overwhelming evidence of studies showing that children raised by same sex parents are just as likely to be emotionally healthy as are children raised by opposite sex parents.

In 2007, the state legislature passed domestic partnership in Washington and in 2009 Gov. Gregoire signed the "everything-but-marriage" bill and in April 2011, the governor signed a law allowing legal out-of-state same-sex marriages to carry the same legal force as domestic partnerships in Washington. These were major advances but they still fall far short of full marriage rights.

Recent poles show that a majority of Washington state citizens are now in favor of same sex marriage. It will become legal. It is inevitable and it is right, but we should not have to wait for the slow wheels of justice. Washington should have equal marriage rights now.

We encourage all of our members and allies to get involved in the struggle to obtain full marriage rights in Washington state. Visit the websites of Equal Rights Washington (<http://www.equalrightswashington.org>) and Washington United for Marriage (<http://washingtonunitedformarriage.org>) to see what you can do to help.

Contact your legislators and the governor and tell them it is now time to enact marriage equality. Write letters to the editor. Talk it up at home and at work and in your places of worship, and share your views on Facebook and other social networks.



SUNDAY, JAN. 8, 2-4 PM

### How to socially connect with the South Sound GLBT community

New to town or wanting to expand your social network? For our January meeting we will invite representatives from area LGBTQ organizations to visit with us and tell us about their organizations, what they do and how to get involved.

FRI. & SAT., JAN. 27-28, 8 PM

### The Righteous Mothers and Shack—A Peace and Justice Concert

Benefit concert for PFLAG-Olympia, two nights only at Traditions Café starring singer-songwriter Steve Schalchlin, the award-winning lyricist of the hit Off-Broadway musicals "The Last Session" and "The Big Voice, God or Merman?" See article page 4.

SUN., FEB. 12, 2-4 PM



# Sexual orientation and gender identity explored in major art exhibition

## Controversial show to come to Tacoma Art Museum

The Tacoma Art Museum will bring the internationally-acclaimed exhibition *HIDE/SEEK: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture* to the West Coast in March, 2012. The exhibition debuted at The Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery in 2010 and is the first major exhibition to address the question of how gender identity and sexual orientation have dramatically shaped the creation of modern American portraiture.

*HIDE/SEEK* offers an unprecedented survey of nearly 150 years of American art and includes more than 100 works by masters including Thomas Eakins, John Singer Sargent, Georgia O'Keeffe, Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, and more.

The show brings together more than 100 paintings, photographs, works on paper, film, and installation art. It charts the role sexual identity has played in the making of modern art, and highlights the contributions of gay and lesbian artists to American art. Beginning in the late nineteenth century with Thomas Eakins' Realist paintings, *HIDE/SEEK* traces the often coded narrative of sexual desire in art produced throughout the early modern period and up to the present.

"Tacoma Art Museum stands uniquely positioned to present *Hide/Seek*," said museum director Stephanie A. Stebich. "We sit in a diverse and welcoming community that values freedom of expression and the open exchange of ideas.

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Photograph of Janet Flanner by Berenice Abbott, 1927, included in the *HIDE/SEEK* exhibition.

### 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>

**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 2/15/2012**

Mail submissions to:

**HeartBeat**

**P.O. Box 12732**

**Olympia, WA 98508-2732**

Or email to: [newsletter@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:newsletter@pflag-olympia.org)

### 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.

# HIDE/SEEK

(Continued from page 2)

At the museum we see ourselves as a safe place to present works of art that express different points of view.”

The exhibition traces the subject of gender and sexuality through the early modern era with works by masters including Romaine Brooks, George Wesley Bellows, Marsden Hartley, and Georgia O’Keeffe. It continues through the postwar periods with works by Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Agnes Martin, and Andy Warhol. The exhibition addresses the impact of the Stonewall Riots of 1969, the AIDS epidemic, and the advent of postmodernism and themes of identity in contemporary art.

Tacoma Art Museum’s presentation of *Hide/Seek* will feature nearly all of the works included in the National Portrait Gallery exhibition. Among them are a poignant portrait of New Yorker writer Janet Flanner wearing two masks, taken by photographer Berenice Abbott; Andrew Wyeth’s painting of a young neighbor standing nude in a wheat field, composed much like Botticelli’s Venus emerging from her shell; Robert Mapplethorpe’s photograph riffing on the classic family portrait in which a leather-clad Brian Idley is

seated on a wingback chair shackled to his whip-wielding partner, Lyle Heeter; and Catherine Opie’s early series *Being and Having* (*Papa Bear, Chief, Jake, and Chicken*), portraits that capture the fluidity and artifice of gender identities in gay subcultures.

The exhibition will also include David Wojnarowicz’s *A Fire in My Belly*, an unfinished film the artist created between 1985 and 1987, which was removed from the National Portrait Gallery exhibition, sparking a national controversy, demonstrations, and renewed discussions about censorship and artists’ rights. Although this video recently was widely exhibited in institutions in Seattle in response to its censorship, Tacoma Art Museum welcomes the opportunity to present it in the context of the exhibition. It will also follow the museum’s recent presentation *It Gets Better: 1990/2010*, that featured *untitled (One day this kid ...)* by Wojnarowicz and Dan Savage’s successful web-based video project “It Gets Better.” During the exhibition, Tacoma Art Museum will offer a community meeting place where diverse voices may share their beliefs and opinions in a safe and respectful environment.

The show Opens March 17, 2012.

## NEW or RENEWAL PFLAG

- Individual \$35
- Household \$50
- Senior/Student/Low Income
- Supporter \$100
- Educator \$250
- 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.**



# 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. In August we meet at 1pm for a potluck picnic in a local park.

**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](mailto:info@pflag-olympia.org)

*or go to our website:*

<http://www.pflag-olympia.org>



**The Righteous Mothers & Shack**  
**PEACE WITH JUSTICE CONCERT**  
a benefit for PFLAG-OLYMPIA

**TRADITIONS**  
(corner of Water and 5th St. Oly)  
**Jan 27 & 28**  
ONE WEEKEND ONLY  
8 pm

Reserve now.  
Limited seating.  
Call Traditions at  
**360-705-2819**

**Shack**  
**is Steve Schalchlin**  
GLAAD, OVATION AWARD  
Composer/lyricist/performer of Off-Broadway hits  
**THE LAST SESSION**  
**THE BIG VOICE: GOD OR MERMAN?**  
**NEW WORLD WAKING: A MUSICAL INSURRECTION FOR PEACE**

Pay what you can  
Suggested Donation \$25  
(\$50 even better)

Steve Schalchlin is coming back for another PFLAG-Olympia benefit concert, and this time he'll be performing with popular Olympia/Seattle based women's quartet, The Righteous Mothers!

Shack is the fabulous composer of the hit Off-Broadway musicals "The Last Session" and "The Big Voice: God or Merman?" and the "musical insurrection" "New World Waking," which he performed here last summer with students from South Puget Sound Community College. Steve's lyrics are funny, sad and inspirational. His songs tell stories about living with AIDS, about love and loss, about living in the closet and coming out, about war and peace. His musical style combines gospel, rock, folk and the tradition of show tunes, all delivered with passion and sincerity. It's a style that fits beautifully with The Righteous Mothers, four women who are known for powerful, tender and outrageously funny songs that blend folk, rock, gospel and other genres. Hit Righteous Mothers songs include the unforgettable "Old Fat Naked Women for Peace," "Pesky Angel," and "60,000 Naked Hoosiers."

This will be a concert not to be missed. Put it on your calendar now. Better yet, call for tickets immediately because seating is limited, and tickets are going fast.

Tickets are by donation, suggested donation \$25.00. Call Traditions: 360-705-2819.

For more information, go online to:

<http://www.bonusround.com>  
<http://newworldwaking.com>

<http://www.righteousmothers.com>  
<http://www.traditionsfairtrade.com>