



HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 112 ~ July-August 2012

Pizza Klatch Comes Out

by Lynn Grotsky

Pizza Klatch has finally come out of the closet. "Pizza Klatch, what's that?" Pizza Klatch provides support groups in local high schools for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) youth and straight allies. The initial group started following a spate of suicides and attempted suicides by local youth who were gay or were suspected of being gay. At that time, one of our founders' own son, was struggling with depression and the difficulties of being gay in high school. She realized that if he was having such a hard time coming from such a supportive family, it must be torture for kids from families who do not accept them. The North Thurston School District agreed to try one after school support group with trained facilitators. The group went well until two parents in different families realized that their kids were attending a LGBTQ group and sent them away to "straighten them out."

A call was then put out to the LGBT community about what else we could do. PFLAG-Olympia, Stonewall Youth, Partners in Prevention Education (PiPE) and St. Benedict's Episcopal Church all joined together and decided the group had to be offered during school hours. The only choice was lunchtime.

We now have 11 weekly lunchtime support groups going in six Thurston County High Schools. Our dream is to also get into the more rural schools around Thurston County. But, that takes a lot of pizza. Presently, we order 45 pizzas a week. Although they are given to us at discounted prices, it still adds up to \$445 a week. Thus, we must do a lot of fundraisers.

Our next fundraiser is a really fun and relaxed auction on a lake home in Lacey. It will be held on Sunday, September 9 from 2-6 pm. We are accepting donations for both silent and live auction items and services. We can use tickets to shows, dinners in people's homes, nights in condos, free airline tickets, art objects, etc. Also, classes such as mosaic making, pie baking, bike fixing, etc. Or services such as gardening, organizing, rides to the airport, etc. Be as creative as you would like. Donor forms and further information on the auction is available on our website: www.pizzaklatch.org.

Students have shared some of the things they like about Pizza Klatch. These include:

- ◆ "Pizza Klatch makes a difference in my week—someone is always there to listen to me."
- ◆ "I now know people who are in the same place as I."
- ◆ "Sometimes we have fun, sometimes we talk about stuff that's hard to talk to other people about." - "I can be who I am here."
- ◆ "PK brings me a positive image & hope for the future."



SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2-4 PM

Trans Panel

Members of Gender Alliance of South Sound and other transgender community members will be on hand to talk about their organizations, their lives, and the issues they face.

SUN., AUG. 12, 1-5 PM

Picnic in Priest Point Park

Potluck and lots of fun! Join us for good company and a potluck meal in Priest Point Park - Kitchen #3 on the water side of the park starting at 1 pm. **(Note the time change.** That's an hour earlier than our usual meeting time). Bring food to share if you are able. More information to coordinate the meal will be sent out on the announcement email list, and info and directions will be posted on our website.

Don't let fear
choose your path.

~ Deb Price

These were the last words in her last column, "One Very Gay Time."



Come to Our Summer Picnic!

PFLAG-Olympia's annual picnic at Priest Point Park provides a wonderful opportunity to discover more about PFLAG, meet some of our members and find out more about what we do in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with good food and fun times for all.

The picnic is potluck. A week or two before the picnic we will set up a page on our website where you can look to see what others are bringing so we don't all bring the same dishes. We'll announce it on our email alert list.

We do not conduct business or have support or discussion groups at the picnic. It's simply a chance for us all to get to know each other better. Sometimes people have brought instruments and played music. Last year there was volleyball. Children are welcome. Bring your friends and family and neighbors.

There is a grill available, but unless you plan on bringing charcoal and cooking for everyone it is best to stick to dishes that can be served without cooking such as casseroles, desserts, bread, fruit and salad.

Sunday, Aug. 12, 1-4 p.m.

Priest Point Park Kitchen #3.

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 8/15/2012

Mail submissions to:

HeartBeat
P.O. Box 12732
Olympia, WA 98508-2732

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.org

We are healing but we must not forget those left behind in the rubble of misunderstanding, hate, and intolerance. ~ Eddie Ratliff, Roanoke 7

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>

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 \$ _____

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- I want Olympia's bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* print version only.
- I want Olympia's bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* sent as email only.
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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. 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

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