



# HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 115 ~ Jan.-Feb. 2013

## Welcome To Our New Chapter Officers: Courtney Shrieve and Robert Kowalski

PFLAG-Olympia welcomes our new president, Courtney Shrieve, and vice-president, Robert Kowalski.

Courtney is a school administrator in Lacey and she and her husband Garin are the parents of two teens, one of whom is queer. She helped advocate through the Washington State Human Rights Commission for the rights of students in public schools to use the bathroom of their affirmed gender.

"I am forever in debt to this organization and how it has helped my family and countless others better understand, advocate and support our gay and transgender community," said Schrieve, who has been a member of PFLAG for about a year. As President she hopes to make PFLAG more visible to the community-at-large, especially in the schools. "I love how multi-generational and diverse PFLAG members are. It just goes to show us that we all have something in common no matter where we come from, how old we are or what our gender or sexuality."

Courtney says she is in debt to the Claytons for their leadership and is looking forward to working with the new Board to offer education, advocacy and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends.

Robert is a high school student and will be the youngest member ever to serve as a board officer. His father, Jason McCormick, is also a new board member; and his mother, Dana, intends to join the board after her deployment to Korea. Dana and Jason are both in the Army.

Robert says, "I am very pleased to assume the position of Vice President of the Olympia chapter of PFLAG. I have been coming to PFLAG for about a year and have found PFLAG to be a warm welcoming environment that I love being a part of. A little about myself, I am a sophomore at North Thurston High. I am also an active member of Future Business Leaders of America, Distributive Education Clubs of America, Gay Straight Alliance, Stonewall Youth and Pizza Klatch. I am what you would call a "Military Brat" I was born in upstate New York, just outside of Fort Drum in 1997. In August of 2000 I moved to Germany where I spent the next 9 years experiencing life abroad. In September of 2009 my family and I moved to Lacey, where I believe we have found our forever home. I look forward to working with each of you in the future. Thank You for your support."

We are also pleased to welcome Larry Konquist and Diane Robbins to the board.

Outgoing board members Alec and Gabi Clayton will remain active chapter members and will continue to edit the newsletter and to maintain the website. Hilary Robbins will help with the website.



SUNDAY, JAN. 13, 2-4 PM

### **TRANS: the movie**

TRANS is an up-close and very personal journey into the transgender world through the memorable stories and the unusual lives of a remarkable cast of characters. Learn more at <http://www.facebook.com/transthemovie>.

SUN., FEB. 10, 2-4 PM

### **Teen Files: The Truth About Hate**

We will view the made-for-television film *Teen Files: The Truth About Hate*. This documentary explores the origins of hate through the eyes of today's teenagers as they come face to face with their own racism, ethnic and religious hatred, and sexual orientation bigotry. Olympia PFLAG member Gabi Clayton is in the part of the film dealing with homophobia and she will be at the meeting to talk about it after the screening.

*(Further details on page 2)*

**The time is  
always right  
to do what is right.**  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Teen Files: The Truth About Hate

Many members and friends of PFLAG-Olympia and community folks are aware of the story of Bill Clayton, the son of Alec and Gabi Clayton who took his own life in 1995 at the age of 17 following a bashing based on his sexual orientation. Gabi was invited to appear in a made-for-television documentary shot in 1998. When she agreed she was flown to San Francisco and filmed telling Bill's story to a group of self-avowed homophobic youth.

The film, *Teen Files: The Truth About Hate*, looks into racial and ethnic based hate, religious intolerance, homophobia and more. Anti-Semitic teens listen to a holocaust survivor, rival Hispanic and Armenian students spend time together, teens meet a young black man who was paralyzed after a racist assault. In the section Gabi is in a police officer who works on hate crimes takes the homophobic youth to visit a shelter for LGBT youth. And in the final part, filmed at a diversity boot camp, kids from different backgrounds learn to work together to survive in the wilderness.

It is a very moving and ultimately a hopeful film. Gabi will be with us to talk about the experience after we watch the film. We may have to shorten some other parts of the meeting to fit this in or perhaps extend the meeting time until 4:30 p.m.

**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 2/15/2013**

Mail submissions to:

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

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



## 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:

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35                | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100 |
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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.**
- 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. 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>