



# HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 116 ~ March-April 2013

## Message from the President: PFLAG-Olympia provides a second family and lots of fun

As I head into my third month as the leader of this amazing organization, I am humbled by all the incredible people I have met in the course of coming to PFLAG-Olympia over a year ago. At that time I was struggling with the realization that my child had a different gender identity than the one we assigned to him at birth. I was confused, sad, guilty and very alone. I floated into the church not knowing who I would meet or if they'd even understand what I was going through. I was also wondering, "why is it at a church...will they make me join?"

I need not have worried. Within minutes of arriving they had offered me snacks, hugs and their stories which were very similar to mine. During sharing I realized PFLAG-Olympia was not just for "allies" but also provided a respite and support group for members of the LGBTQ community. It was a very safe place where anyone was welcome, not judged; listened to and not silenced.

If you come to our "circle" on Sunday you will realize that PFLAG-Olympia members are everywhere and everyone. We are students, grandparents, partners, husbands, wives, friends, family, straight, gay, transgender, military, and all colors of this magnificent rainbow of humanity. We are there to advocate and educate but mostly support each other. It is a huge sigh of relief for many of us to finally find others who understand and appreciate us and our loved ones.

I am blessed to have the support and encouragement of such amazing former Board members as Alec and Gabi Clayton, Lacey Mayor Virgil Clarkson and Catherine Dawdy. Our current Board members -- many of whom has served longer than me -- have some amazing ideas, talents and energy to bring to PFLAG-Olympia. We want to make the group more social, more visible and more financially independent. We've talked of scholarships, film festivals, more guest speakers, fundraisers and partnership with other chapters. And of course, let's not forget Capital City Pride ([www.capitalcitypride.net](http://www.capitalcitypride.net)), June 22-23 -- please march with us or stop by our booth!

I know this letter mainly reaches advocates but I am hoping if you are reading this that you will think of one other person who is not an ally or who needs an ally and encourage them to come to a meeting or at least check out our website which is full of great resources ([www.pflag-olympia.org](http://www.pflag-olympia.org)).

Also while we do not require people to pay dues, we are very grateful to those who are financially able to do so. Memberships start as low as \$15 but any donation is much appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who is a PFLAG-Olympia supporter. Here's to a great year ahead full of advocacy, education and support!

Sincerely,  
Courtney Schrieve, 2013 PFLAG-Olympia President  
[president@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:president@pflag-olympia.org)

P.S. If you come to a meeting you must meet our mascot "Coco." He's a hard nut to crack but will make you smile....



SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2-4 PM

### LGBTQQIA Youth Support Groups

Want to learn more about local groups that support queer youth in our community? Meet leaders from both Stonewall Youth and Pizza Klatch and learn what they are doing to support both LGBTQQIA youth -- and their allies -- in our schools and community. Learn how you can become an advocate as well!

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2-4 PM

### Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)

Will it stay or will it go? Meet with experts on the current and controversial "Defense of Marriage Act," enacted in 1996 and recently being called unconstitutional by President Obama. The law, which codifies the non-recognition of same-sex marriages for all federal purposes, including Social Security survivors' benefits, immigration and insurance benefits for government employees. An appeal is scheduled to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on March 27, 2013.

**E**ven if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.  
-Will Rogers

# Looking back on gay history....

**1906** – Potentially the first openly gay American novel with a happy ending, *Imre*, is published.

**1910** – Emma Goldman first begins speaking publicly in favor of homosexual rights. Magnus Hirschfeld later wrote “She was the first and only woman, indeed the first and only American, to take up the defense of homosexual love before the general public.”

**1938** – The word Gay is used for the first time in reference to homosexuality.

**1972** – Sweden becomes first country in the world to allow transsexuals to legally change their sex, and provides free hormone therapy.

**If** you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

**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 4/15/2013**

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:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <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: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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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>