



Heart Beat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 48 Nov.-Dec. 2001

Just a Few Thoughts

By XXX

When I was a child, I was certain that we were about to see the end of the social injustice across the human society. However, growing up I started to notice that the issue was not as simple as I had previously thought. I noticed that we humans had sets of goals and beliefs that tended to go against other's goals and beliefs, and we were still working on our capacity for tolerance.

I have just returned from a short trip to Poland, the country that I was born in and brought up. What a wonderful experience I had seeing most of my classmates 25 years after we had parted into our own lives. What a wonderful experience I had seeing my family after years being here. I talked about my life in America with many; I talked about my gay son too. That was amusing seeing people choking on a peace of meal when after a question if my son had a girlfriend I responded, "No, but he has a boyfriend."

Believe or not, I saw few quietly having the same fun as I had. Some begged me not to mention this subject to others. Their argument was that I would leave in a few days but they would stay and have to face the outcome of my openness. I heard the argument, however I kept tackling the subject of sexual diversity just to test how much work had to be done in this monolithic catholic society for the current and future generations to overcome such deep intolerance.

Some people, that I talked to, were well educated. Some of them had impressive professional carriers. Many seemed to treat homosexuality as a harmless aberration of a human sexual behavior rather than reality of an everyday life. More or less the subject was relatively unknown to them as well as invisible in the society. I did not even see one rainbow on a car or met anybody who even knew a gay person. But remember, I stayed in a small town for almost all my trip. It was hard to believe that their

genetic pool was much different from the American one.

According to Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, "Although it is estimated that almost half of American boys have one or more homosexual experiences, only about one of 10 men are homosexual." When my gay son was there last year he met with a mixed reception. Fortunately, people of this own age were open and positive, as well as some family members. They loved X unconditionally the way he was. For other people the subject was very uncomfortable to talk about and many of them had deep negative feelings.

I wondered if there was an organization similar to PFLAG in Poland. Unfortunately, I did not have time to check it out. Ten days between family and former classmates and friends was not long enough to do a thorough research on this matter. However, I learned that there might be a similar association in Warsaw. Next summer when I go overseas again for almost a month I will take time to learn more.



▽ SUNDAY, NOV. 11, 2-4 PM

Annual business meeting

We will look back at the past year and forward to next year, and discuss what things we may want to continue and what things we need to do differently. And we will elect new board members.

SUNDAY, DEC. 9, 2-4 PM

▽ Points of light

A moving candlelight ceremony celebrating those people and events that were points of light in our lives over the past year. We did this for the first time last year, and it was powerful. Many members said we need to do it again... so we shall.

California extends rights to domestic partners

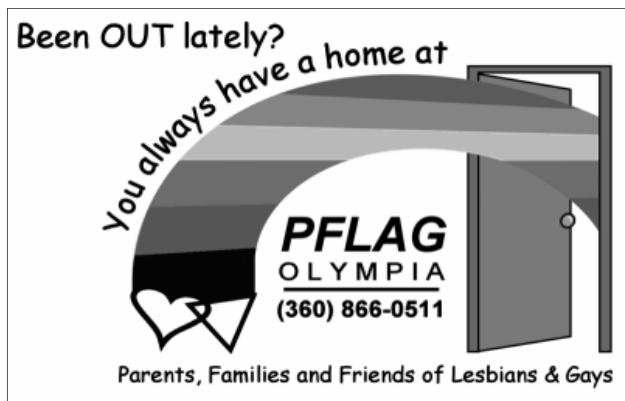
A new bill signed by California Gov. Gray Davis lets domestic partners make medical decisions for incapacitated partners, sue for wrongful death, adopt a partner's child and will property to a partner. Supporters called Davis' decision the biggest expansion of domestic partner rights in the country, putting the state alongside Vermont and Hawaii for acceptance of same-sex couples.

Opponents label it an assault on traditional marriage and family values. "In one fell swoop, Gray Davis has cheapened every marriage in the state, undermined the vote of the people, pandered to the special interests, frivolously spent taxpayer money and broken his written promise to the citizens of California," said Randy Thomasson, director of the Campaign for California Families.

The bill also allows an individual to relocate with a domestic partner without losing unemployment benefits, use sick leave to care for a family member and administer a partner's estate.

We're here!

Billboard campaign kicks off



Thanks to a grant from the Pride Foundation, PFLAG Olympia is kicking off the next phase of its visibility and outreach campaign. Billboards based on the new "Been Out Lately?" graphic designed by Teresa Guajardo and Gabi Clayton will soon be popping up all over town. Look for the new billboards beginning October 29 at Martin Way and Carpenter in Lacey and at Capitol Boulevard and 8th in Olympia. Three new billboards will be appearing for the month of December and then two more in January.

Election of new board members

We'll be electing new board members at the November meeting. Nominees have already been announced, but new nominees can be brought up at the meeting prior to voting.

New nominees for the board are: Casey Kilduff, Barb Klein and Myra Barken. Up for re-election are: Mike Walsh, Teri Yount, and Jean Safstrom. Remaining for another term are: Gabi Clayton, Brianne Pearson, Shirley Pearson, and XXX. Maggie Pazar, Teresa Guajardo and Ruby Koppelman are leaving the board.



MEETS at 2PM on the second Sunday of each month in The Gathering Place parlor of First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, at Boundary Street, 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 side lot at 5th Avenue and Boundary, and enter upper front door. Meeting place is across the lobby.

Letters, articles and requests for literature are welcome.

Mailing address:

PFLAG Olympia; PO Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

For information or to discuss personal matters with an understanding parent and experienced PFLAG member, CALL the PFLAG Olympia

HELPLINE: (360) 866-0511

E-mail:

olympflag@hotmail.com

Website:

<http://www.youthguard.org/gabi/PFLAG-Olympia.html>

NEW or RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

Please check the membership types you prefer:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/Low Income \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate \$500 |

New Renewal

Active (attend when I can) or Supporting (seldom attend)

Membership \$ _____

Add this amount as my tax-exempt gift \$ _____

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT \$ _____

I want Olympia's bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* (which is mailed in an envelope with no identified return address).

I want the national quarterly *PFLAGpole* newspaper (which is not mailed in an envelope).

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____

Signed _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

PFLAG is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization not affiliated with any political or religious institution.

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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 12/15/2001

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