



Heart Beat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 49 Jan.-Feb. 2002



Member spotlight by Alec Clayton

Spotlight on David Kindle

If the following statement is less than one hundred percent accurate, it's pretty damn close: No member of PFLAG Olympia has been active as long or as consistently as David Kindle.

David was on the founding board when the chapter began "umpteens years ago" with about a dozen members meeting upstairs in the old Parish Hall of St. Johns Episcopal Church. "We started small," David said. "There was controversy in the church about us meeting there. It was the only group that ever had to get permission from their board."

He remembers one woman from the church who came to the meetings with her own personal agenda based on a literal interpretation of the Bible, and they had to pass rules disallowing anyone from bringing their own agenda to the group.

Acceptance of glbt folk by the religious community is important to David, who about a year ago became a Lay Eucharistic Minister of the Episcopal Church, and who is a South Sound representative for Integrity Puget Sound, the only glbt group that is officially recognized by the church. His message is that true Christianity is accepting of all. "A lot of people don't understand that what passes
(Continued on page 3)

Mixed bag at PFLAG

By Teresa Guajardo

My partner, who lived in Chicago for many years, never dreamed of attending Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays. She is a lesbian and lesbians have their own groups, or so she thought. I didn't know PFLAG existed until I came out to my family and was subsequently rejected by them. I needed others to accept me and tell me I was okay even if I identified as a lesbian. Someone recommended PFLAG and I went.

I found a mixed group of individuals: some of them were parents and family members (of other lesbians and gays); others were straight individuals who felt strongly about equal rights for all—and they didn't even have a gay relative. I also found lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender, and questioning individuals. And some of them were also parents, family members, and friends of lesbians and gays. What a group!

I met parental figures and other straight

people to whom sexual orientation was irrelevant when it came to personal acceptance. They decided to like me based on merit, not affection. I met queer individuals who were leading productive, healthy lives. They were out and proud models for me to emulate. Eventually I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors and then was elected to two consecutive two year terms.

Thanks to the loving care, acceptance, and modeling of PFLAG members, I have grown into a more complete person. I even met my life partner at PFLAG. As my final term ends on the PFLAG Board of Directors (there are term limits) I find myself reflecting on the scared, uncertain individual who came to her first meeting in December of 1996. Thank you, PFLAG. May you always be a safe, supportive, and accepting, advocate and educator of LGBTQ individuals and issues.

If you have not attended a PFLAG meeting in a while, I encourage you to do so. Bring a friend. You can't predict whose life you will touch, or be touched by.



▽ SUNDAY, JAN, 13, 2-4 PM

It's the law

We will discuss pending legislation affecting GLBT rights and compose letters — sample letters and postcards will be available.

▽ SUNDAY, FEB, 10, 1-5 PM

Valentines Day

We will honor our gay and lesbian couples by having domestic partner registries available for those who would like to register, pictures will be taken of couples, and a special cake will be served.

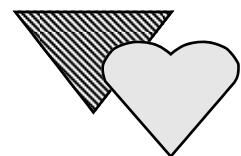
Welcome new board members

New board members Jeff Loyer, Barb Klein, Myra Barker, Casey Kilduff and Suzie Jaspersen begin their two-year terms in January. We welcome them all and look forward to working with them.

Jeff will take over direction of the library from Maggie Pazar, who has done a terrific job and has earned her time off.

Brianne Pearson will take over fundraising chores from Teresa Guajardo, and Shirley Pearson will take over as secretary, while continuing to head up the safe schools committee. Finally, XXX will take over the website from Gabi Clayton.

Other board positions remain the same: Mike Walsh, President; Teri Yount, Treasurer, Jean Safstrom, Support.



Billboard campaign

We're here, we're queer, and we're all over town. The new PFLAG Olympia billboard campaign began in November with billboards on Martin Way and Capital Boulevard. The campaign runs for three months with two billboards at various locations around town. Look for them. They're great.

Made possible by a Pride grant, we owe thanks to Pride and to Teresa Guajardo for planning the campaign and writing the grant, and to Gabi for helping her design the billboards.



Womyn's group forming

A new womyn's group for formerly or still married lesbian is starting. The group will meet on a monthly basis to socialize and share experiences. Meetings will be on the third Monday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 2200 East End Street NW., Olympia. For further information call the PFLAG Helpline at 866-0511 and leave a message for the group.

Stonewall seeks board members and volunteers

Stonewall Youth (support, information, and advocacy for GLBTQ youth) needs you!! Join with some amazing people for a great time. Stonewall Youth is now accepting applications for youth and adult board positions, as well as many other exciting areas. Contact Kristin, the volunteer coordinator, at 705-2738 for an application or to have any questions answered.

The PFLAG Olympia website has moved.

Find it at:

<http://home.attbi.com/~pflag-olympia/>

Gay Radio is back

Seattle based Gay Radio Network, the world's only 24/7 GLBT radio broadcaster, went online in November broadcasting news, talk, music and special events programming via the Internet.

To listen you need streaming audio platforms such as Microsoft® Windows Media™ or RealAudio®, both of which can be downloaded free of charge.

For more information, or to start listening, go to <http://www.gayradionetwork.com/>

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 2/15/2002

Mail submissions to:
HeartBeat
P.O. Box 12732
Olympia, WA 98508-2732
Or email to: alecclayton@earthlink.net

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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active (attend when I can) or <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

Financial woes at PFLAG national office seeks help from chapters

The national office of PFLAG, which continues to offer invaluable support to local chapters such as ours, is suffering some severe financial problems and needs help from local chapters. Over the years they have helped us in countless ways, now it is time for us to help them. Following is a letter from Executive Director Kristen Kingdon (who, by-the-way, has announced her retirement effective May 15, 2002.)

Dear PFLAG Affiliates, Members and Friends,

I come to you with a heavy heart for what is happening in our world and how PFLAG's national office is being affected by it. PFLAG did not meet its income projections this past fiscal year, and despite keeping our expenses under budget, we ended the year at a loss. Since then, our income has dropped significantly due to several factors:

- the economic downturn and uncertainty about the future
- - diversion of giving towards disaster relief
- - the disruption of the DC postal service due to anthrax contamination.

All of PFLAG's mail, including contributions, comes through the Brentwood post office, where two postal workers died due to anthrax inhalation. We have not had a normal mail delivery for several weeks, and don't know when we'll receive all our mail.

As a result of this revenue downturn, we have

eliminated five staff positions at the national office - east field manager, the executive assistant, the communications director, the finance manager and the major gifts manager.

At the same time, we are committed to continue service to PFLAG's chapter network - the heart of our work. We are re-evaluating our essential duties and looking at how we can continue service in a drastically altered environment.

We will be relying more on email and looking at new methods of providing service - particularly using the website (www.pflag.org), internet chatrooms and listservs; the affiliate mailing will be much leaner.

At this time, we need your support to sustain our national office. Please let us know how we can continue to serve you at this difficult time for our organization (and world). We appreciate any support that you are able to provide the national office. Your dedication and tireless efforts in your local community sustain us and give us hope in this time of uncertainty, if you have any questions (or just want to provide support), please feel free to call or email me at 202/467-8180, or kkingdon@pflag.org.

Thank you,
Kirsten Kingdon
Executive Director

Member Spotlight/ Davis Kindle (Continued from page 1)

for Christianity in the U.S. is not historic Christianity," he said. "Some scholars call it American Christianity, and it has caused a lot of problems."

David and his partner, Spencer Daniels, have been together for two decades. They were the second couple to register as domestic partners with the City of Olympia, and they are also registered with the state as domestic partners. On Memorial Day 2002 they will celebrate their twentieth anniversary. Ironically, even though gay marriage is not legal, they are recognized by the state health care authority as a married couple. This came about when Spencer named David as his partner on his insurance claim. Now, according to the health care authority they have been married since May 25, 1982.

In addition to his involvement with PFLAG, David has been a longtime activist with many other area organizations. He was co-chair of GLOW (Gays and Lesbians of Olympia, Washington), one of the first gay organizations here. And he was on the founding boards of the Rainbow Center and Black Hills Pride, and he was involved with Spectrum, the organization that put on shows at Thekla back when it was almost exclusively a gay club.

When asked what he considers the greatest advance in glbt civil rights over his many years of activism, David said it would be advances in the issue of marriage and domestic partnership. "It wasn't even spoken of years ago," he said.

When asked what PFLAG means to him, he said, "Mostly it's what I can do for other people - lend support to those who are coming out and those who would love to but can't because of family, religion or their job situation."



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://home.attbi.com/~pflag-olympia/>

"Educators' GLBT Resource Showcase and Gathering"

Looking for age-appropriate, respectful ways to address sexual orientation or gender identity in the classroom?

Do you feel a little unsure about how to handle anti-gay (lesbian, bisexual, transgender) bullying or harassment in the halls or on the playground or in your classroom?



Do you have a first grader who is gender-non-conforming or a fourth grader with lesbian moms that you don't think you are serving as well as you could?

Did an 8th or 9th grader just come out to you and you couldn't think where to safely refer them in your district or the community?

This event is for you!!!

The Safe Schools Coalition is celebrating the release of the new *Safe Schools Resource Guide*, the *Washington State Supplement*, and (for GLBT youth) the *Safe School Zine* -- and the launching of their new web sites, www.SafeSchoolsCoalition.org and www.SafeSchoolZine.org -- with this showcase of resources.

When? Thursday, January 17, from 3-7 p.m.

Where? The new Planned Parenthood building at 2001 E. Madison, Seattle.

What?

- Preview **videos** addressing diverse families, prejudice, and the history of various struggles for equality, all suitable for classroom use.
- Survey dozens of **books** for the library and the classroom regarding gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues.
- Examine various **posters**, stickers and signs you might use to let sexual minority students and family members know that you welcome their presence.
- Explore **pamphlets** for your clinic or classroom and **web sites** for your own research and your students'.
- Learn about **scholarships** and **hotlines** for your students and their families.
- Meet **staff people** from a variety of GLBT-youth-friendly community agencies and organizations all over the region.
- Meet **colleagues** who, like you, care about the particular needs of this group of our students.
- Eat **munchies**, gather **freebies** and win **door prizes**.

Who? Teachers and Paraprofessionals, Counselors and Social Workers, Nurses and Teen Health Center and Student Wellness Center Staff, Principals and other Administrators, Library Media Specialists, Drug/Alcohol and Other Intervention Specialists, Family Support Workers, GLBT youth and their friends and allies, staff from community-based organizations that serve GLBT youth, YOU!!!

Registration required by January 10th (space is limited): Contact Lisa Love -- LLove@SeattleSchools.org or 206-252-0982.

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.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

*"Mama exhorted her children at every opportunity to 'jump at the Sun.' We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground."
Zora Neale Hurston*

Let them know where the money comes from -- and support PFLAG!

You can now order beautiful PFLAG checks in rainbow colors, checkbook covers and return address labels from Message!Products in Minnesota. 10% of your purchase comes back to PFLAG to support our programs.

Call 1-800-243-2565. To see the items and order online, go to <http://www.messageproducts.com/default.asp?Org=pflag>