



Heart + Beat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 50

March-April 2002

Celebrating domestic partner registration

We celebrated Valentine's Day by registering domestic partners at the February meeting. Following the registrations, which were notarized and official, the couples had their pictures taken and then Shirley Pearson's wonderful commitment cake was served.



▽ SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2-4:30 PM

Safe Schools

We will have a presentation from the Safe Schools committee and a viewing of a clip from the video "Teen Files: The Truth About Hate."

▽ SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2-4:30 PM

Gender Variant Health

Our guests will be from the Gender Variant Health Project.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Videos: What's Out There?

by Maggie Pazar

Looking for a video for a meeting, a conference, a family gathering, a classroom presentation, or for personal viewing? Where do you find the one that is right for your need? What's out there and available?

Loan

The Olympia PFLAG Chapter has a loan library, which is open at our monthly meeting. You can borrow a video at one meeting and return it at the next. You may be surprised what you will find—check it out. I did not research other GLBT organizations, but some may loan videos—I suggest giving them a call.

The Timberland Regional Library, which serves communities in Thurston, Mason, and Lewis counties, has nearly fifty videotapes which are either about GLBTs; or touch on or include a representation of a person who is GLBT. Look for a list of those videotapes at the Olympia PFLAG Chapter meetings. During my research, I previewed a handful of these videos, and a summary of each follows:

Off the Straight and Narrow: Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Television, 1998, Media Education Foundation.

Off the Straight and Narrow is an hour long video that provides useful information on the history of how gays, lesbians, and bisexuals have been presented to society in the media. It provides a chronological history of the development of societal growth concerning gay issues. Control of media exposure about different gay classes was also explained. The time frame reviewed began with the publicity of the Stonewall Inn Gay Bar raid in June 1969 through the AIDS crisis years and into the early 1990s.

Gay Youth, 1992, Filmmakers Library.

The preface of this video is: "Youth Suicide in the US increased 170% between 1950 and 1980. In an effort to understand this tormenting statistic, the Department of Health and Human Services commissioned The Report on Youth Suicide, which was published in 1989. The commission found that of all suicides committed by people between the ages of 15 and 24, fully 30% are gay and lesbian youth." The video highlights the lives of two young people with inserts of other teens sharing about their feeling of aloneness and suicidal thoughts. The first teen highlighted is Bobby Griffith, who jumped from an overpass in Oregon, ending his struggle to resolve his issues of being gay. Words from his journal are read, and his mother and friends share about Bobby. His mother was not supportive of Bobby being gay, but she says, "All children are special. They deserve the love and respect of their families and their church and communities." (After publication of this video, a book was written: Prayers for Bobby—A Mother's Coming to Terms with the Suicide of her Gay Son, by Leroy Aarons. A good read for persons who are reconciling religious beliefs with a same-sex orientation.) The second teen highlighted is Gina Gutierrez, who received the Bobby Griffith Memorial Scholarship Award for her work on gay and lesbian issues. She shares with other gay youth that, "Being gay is not the end-all deal." This is an older video, but very powerful.

Homophobia in the Workplace, 1993.

Brian McNaught, author and lecturer, gives an excellent presentation about why it is important to battle homophobia in the workplace. He explains the difference between heterosexism and homophobia, and shares ways to handle

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Videos...

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situations to thwart homophobia. This video would be useful in almost any setting—very educational.

Out of the Past, 1997

This is an excellent video highlighting a high school student, Kelli Peterson, Utah, whose request to hold a Gay/Straight Alliance group at the high school incites school board and state involvement. The story of her struggle and growth during this time is interlaced with stories of people in the past who were gay. These historical figures included Michael Wigglesworth, Puritan minister in 1653, Sarah Oren Luit and Annie Adam Fields (women of a Boston marriage in the 1800s), Henry Gerber, founder of the first Society for Human Rights (Chicago), and Baird Ruston, Martin Luther King's one-time advisor, referred to by some as the "lost prophet of nonviolence;" and Barbara Gittings, an activist in the late '60s and early '70s who helped bring about the removal of homosexuality as a mental disorder by the American Psychiatric Association. Kelli Peterson said at the end of the video: "...when we do know these people and we admire these people and the things they have done, it is a little bit harder to beat this kid up, to chase this kid down, to single them out, to say you're different, you're strange... I hope that this goes in somebody's history book, that some kid in the future, when he is feeling lost and lonely, will see this and see these funny looking kids from 1966 and they started this club and did crazy things and this will ultimately not be forgotten."

Purchase

You can purchase videos at most any store that sells videos (some book stores sell videos), but for educational type videos you may have to order by mail or online through a GLBT or educational type organization.. Here is a list of websites with telephone numbers :

<http://www.glbtcntral.com/amazonmovies.html> -- Has a handful of videos/movies.

http://dir.yahoo.com/Entertainment/movies_and_film/titles/ -- Provides a nice selection.

<http://www.the-movie-times.com/> -- The Movie Times. Includes helpful movie information

http://www.movieweb.com/index_ie.html -- Movie Web. Includes information on recent and upcoming releases.

<http://www.pflag.org/> -- National PFLAG, look under PFLAG Shop or PFLAG Affiliate Merchandise.

<http://www.atlasbooks.com/glsen/ordervid.htm> -- GLESEN. Excellent educational videos site

PBS VIDEOdatabase of American History and Culture.
<http://pbsvideodb.pbs.org>, 1-877-PBS-SHOP Toll Free — Contains a couple videos that may be of interest at least. A subscription is required.

The PFLAG Olympia website has moved. Find it at:

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

Queer women's support group

Are you a queer woman looking to join a safe and confidential support group? We are interested in starting a monthly meeting where we could have discussions, provide support and share resources. If you're interested, please contact Casey at 357-4329 or Nikki at 866-7868.

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.

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 4/15/2002

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

They Call this Parenting?

by Jeff Loyer

When mom died we found a note that she'd written for just that eventuality. Her main point was how proud she was of her three sons, and how much joy we had given her. If you looked at these same three men, you might well wonder what she was so proud of. But mom was steadfast in her love for us throughout our lives, a constant source of support and encouragement. She was not perfect, and we had our disagreements, but she was always "in my corner." I think that's something great parents do.

Dad, on the other hand, died and left all three of us feeling like we'd never earned his respect or acceptance. There were instances (and how we yearned for them) when he might show some approval, but they were "few and far between." I believe he failed at a principal responsibility of a parent — to nurture and support his children.

As I listen to young gay and

lesbian folk who are alienated from their parents because of their sexual orientation, I am saddened and angered that so many parents will let a small thing like sexual orientation stand between them and their kids. These parents represent a lack of a key family value — that home will always be a safe place for a person to fall back onto.

When I attend PFLAG meetings and public hearings dealing with the sexual minority issue, I witness the best of parenting. I see people who know what great and wonderful human beings their children are, despite derogatory labels society might try to put on them. These parents have become galvanized to action on the premise that they will do all in their power to defend their children from harm — these youth can rest secure under their mother's (and/or father's) wing.

I also, tragically, hear many tales of parents abandoning their children,

not for some heinous crime, but because of their sexual orientation. Just as sad, many gay and lesbian people don't dare reveal themselves to their parent(s) for fear of that same abandonment. This is neither good parenting nor an example of maintaining family values.

I would like to see more examples of proper parenting: of gays, lesbians, and other sexual minorities being supported by their most fundamental core group — their family. When I die, I hope I will leave my kids with the knowledge that they are three of the finest people I know. They have earned my respect and admiration.

I do not want to leave my kids wishing they could have pleased me — somehow, but knowing they never could. And, I think, neither does anyone. Please be a supportive parent for your children.

Notes from the library

Love Ellen

book review
by Jeff Loyer

"Love, Ellen", by Betty DeGeneres is a warm narrative of what Betty has gone through since Ellen came out — first to her mom, then to the rest of the world. It tells of the struggles she's had with her own acceptance, how she's become an advocate for Gay rights, and what she's done as an advocate. It's easy to read, heartwarming, and gives some humorous insight into Ellen's life and struggles. A nice bedtime read.

Calling all readers!

I'd like to encourage everyone to send a quick book review to Alec if you read something in the library. He can include it in the newsletter and give others an idea of what's hot and what's not.

Cocoons

Cocoons is a lesbian womyn's group who were formerly or are still in heterosexual marriages. We meet on a monthly basis to socialize, share hopes and experiences. We support one another as we continue to face the challenges and issues in coping with life after coming out. Our group is strictly confidential.

We meet the first Sunday of every month from 2-4 p.m. at Unity Church, 1335 Fern St. SW, Olympia. For information, leave a message for us at the PFLAG helpline: (360) 855-0511, check out the website at <http://thurstoncounty.tripod.com/cocoons/id7.html> or email rainbowskies11@yahoo.com

"When will justice come? When those who are not injured are as indignant as those who are."

~ Tolstoy



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 1 2 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:

olypflag@hotmail.com

Website:

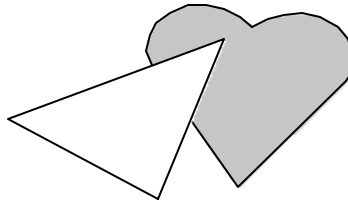
<http://home.attbi.com/~pflag-olympia/>

New meeting times

We're going to try a new format for PFLAG meetings, with expanded hours. A lot of members have said that the support groups that meet between introductions/announcements and the program are not long enough. So we're going to add a half hour and try out a new format.

New Format:

- 2:00-2:30 p.m. Introductions
- 2:30-2:40 p.m. Announcements
- 2:40-3:15 p.m. Support
- 3:15-3:30 p.m. Social/snacks
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. Program



This format will be in effect for the next 3 months as a trial run. All members are encouraged to discuss the new format with board members in order to help the board decide whether or not to stick with it.

South Sound Community College Theatre Department

Presents

The Laramie Project

In November 1998, ten New Yorkers traveled to Laramie, Wyoming. They were there to explore a crime and a town. Over the next year, they conducted more than 200 interviews with the people of Laramie. The result is a play about hope, hate, fear and courage — the story of an American town. A true story.

The Laramie Project burst onto the New York stage in 2000 to tremendous critical acclaim and nightly standing ovations. Award-winning playwright Moises Kaufman has created a moving and inspiring theatrical experience based on the events surrounding the murder of Matthew Shepard that shattered this small Wyoming town. The unique magic of *The Laramie Project* is how it tells its story through the eyes of the townspeople who served as both witnesses and participants. New York Magazine raved that *The Laramie Project* is "Nothing short of stunning. Not to be missed."

**Washington Center for the Performing Arts
Blackbox Theatre
(360) 753-8586**

Sat., March 2 and Sun., March 3 at 2 p.m.
Fri., March 8 and Sat., March 9 at 8 p.m.
Wed., March 6—Pay What You Can—at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$13 adult, \$10 students and seniors

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.

"When you come to the edge of all that you have known, there will be two possibilities awaiting you: There will be something solid to stand on or you will be taught how to fly."

~ A Turtle Creek Choral member
(After Goodbye: an AIDS Story, PBS)

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>