



Heart + Beat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 51

May-June 2002

With The Summer Comes PRIDE!

by: Casey Kilduff

The month of June is full of exciting things... Children are sent off on summer vacation, students are graduating, the sun is shining warm upon your cheeks, and the LTGB pride events start popping up. In just about every major city, it seems that there is some sort of annual pride event. People gather in the streets, the parks, and all over the place. We gather to show our support of one another, to meet new people, to listen to music and enjoy barbecues, and to remind the general public that it's our right to have pride and to parade through the streets. We gather to honor the event at Stonewall, in 1969, where the police raided the well-known gay bar in Greenwich Village and a three-day riot was incited.

I remember my first experience of a pride parade. I was riding in the backseat of my parent's car. They were taking me to the airport to send me off on a plane out of the country. We were driving through San Francisco and the streets were full of beautiful people. From the freeway, I could see rainbow flags and banners, the big pink triangles and streamers. There was a buzz in the air that you could only assume was chanting and singing. I was amazed that these things happened on such a large scale. It was incredible! The very next year, I was living in Olympia and was able to attend Olympia Pride. This was the year that it was held at Heritage Park, by the lake. The park was under construction and was generally a big lump of dirt. It was hot, dusty, and dry, but it was great fun. We danced, supported our local LBTG organizations, played Frisbee, drank lots of water and enjoyed the company of like-minded folks. I have made it my mission to attend every pride event since then.

In an area as small as Olympia, it is important for us to be able to attend events like Olympia Pride. It reminds me that there are tons of LBTG people and our allies who feel that it is worthwhile to gather together once a year and celebrate who we are. Exposing ourselves to the public shows people that we have a community of our own, but we are also a big part of the greater community. When we join in the festivities of Pride week, people recognize us as business owners, social services workers, legislators, grocery clerks, teachers, parents, daughters, sons, the list goes on. We show people that we make a difference in the world, that we are a necessity in the community, and that we are their neighbors.

There are many people who cannot come out to Pride events, in fear of exposure. These are the people who should wave to us from the sidelines, cheer us on, and support us strategically. Safety should never be risked. Wear a mask or costume, or just be there in spirit. Pride is here for a sense of connection. These events are definitely for the people who attend, but they are also for those who are not yet comfortable enough to participate. The visibility that Pride provides can entice the person who doesn't usually come out to march. It shows them that there is a sense of community amongst the LBTG community and our straight allies. Maybe it will encourage them to participate next year.

So, together, we take a stand for freedom. We break down the silence, the shame and encourage visibility, not only among LTGB folks, but also among the allies who support us. There is also some outreach toward the people who try to "look the other way". It's difficult to ignore the crowd of happy, smiling, chanting queer and not-so-queer people marching through the streets. For me, it feels especially great to see friends, family, co-workers, community members and the like, spending time together for one reason in particular. Coming from a small town, in Northern California, I never saw support this strong and I am grateful to live in such a queer-positive area. I hope that all of you invite at least five people to attend Pride this year. There is strength in numbers.

This year, Olympia Pride is on Saturday, June 22. See you there!



▽ SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2-4:30 PM

"That's a Family"

In honor of Mother's Day we will show a video presentation and discuss "That's a Family," a new film for kids about family diversity, by Academy Award-winner Debra Chasnoff, director of the acclaimed film, "It's Elementary."

▽ SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2-4:30 PM

HeartStrong

Marc Adams, author of "Preacher's Son" and co-founder of HeartStrong, will be here to talk about HeartStrong's amazing ministry to glbt students at fundamentalist religious schools, and their efforts to create public awareness of the plight of these students.

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.



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.

MEETING 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

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

General e-mail:

info@pflag-olympia.org/

Website:

http://pflag-olympia.org/

National PFLAG Conference

PFLAG: Family Voices for Equality 2002, the national PFLAG conference, will be held in **Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 27-29**. The conference will feature dozens of workshops, engaging speakers, networking opportunities. Also featured will be a Safe Schools Town Meeting outlining visions for making our schools a place where all can learn free from fear and discrimination.

For information on registration, travel and hotel accommodations go online to www.pflag.org or call 614-447-5105.

Capital City Pride

The Annual Capital City Pride festival and parade winds it way through Washington State's capital, Olympia, on **Saturday, June 22, 2002**. The event begins with a parade from the Capitol grounds at noon. The festival begins at 1 p.m. at Sylvester park in downtown Olympia.

PFLAG Olympia will have a table set up during the festival in the park to distribute information and sell buttons, bumper stickers, etc.

The PFLAG Olympia website has moved.

Find us at:

<http://pflag-olympia.org/>

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 6/15/2002

Mail submissions to:

HeartBeat

P.O. Box 12732

Olympia, WA 98508-2732

Or email to: **newsletter@pflag-olympia.org**