



HeartBeat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 55 Jan.-Feb. 2003

Okay

A poem by Barb Klein

Okay,

So you know I'm gay
(or at least you've recognized
the reality of my actions)

Happy Thanksgiving,
Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year

I wanted to tell you —

To share my excitement, joy
The love I found when I finally
accepted myself
When I finally discovered myself
To share my pain
As I found I had to let go
of the dream (fantasy) I was living in
and the struggle to create
“the perfect life”

To share my fear
As I questioned the old, explored the new

But, alas...

I was afraid.

You see...

I never wanted to hurt you.

It's funny, really -

The greatest pain (the change)
The greatest joy.

Stepping into a world underground,
Unacceptable and lonely -

I find myself freed from the bonds
of lonely isolation.

Where once I was “the only one”
now I have found Others, like me.

So now you know I'm gay.

I've not changed, though your dreams for me will —
If you accept me.

I have not changed —
I have just discovered the way of life
That best fits
ME.



▽ SUNDAY, JAN. 12, 2-4:30 PM

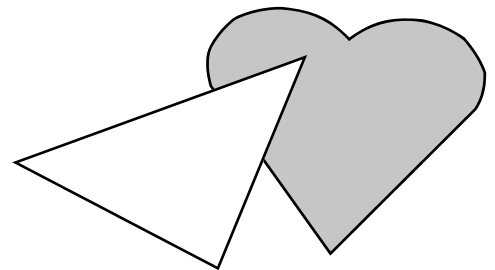
Legislative issues

We will hear from some of our legislators on issues that the Legislature will be facing in the upcoming session, and will learn how we can have an impact on the outcome of these issues.

▽ SUNDAY, FEB. 9, 2-4:30 PM

RISE

Maureen McLemore from Community Youth Services will talk about the RISE transitional housing program. RISE serves over 50 homeless young adults and youth each year. The program provides case management and housing through host homes. One of their needs is to recruit host homes that are sensitive to glbt youth and youth issues.



Plug-a-book

There's nothing like a good book, and we have a great selection in the PFLAG library. If you check one out and you love it and you want to share that wonderful experience with others, please submit a short book review to the newsletter.

New board members elected

Elections were held at our November meeting to select new board members to replace those whose terms had expired. Outgoing board members are Mike Walsh, President; Teri Yount, Treasurer; and Jean Safstrom, Support. The newly elected officers are Alec Clayton, President; David Walddon, Vice President (a new position); Bekah Cardwell, Treasurer; and Evelyn Hinken, Support.

Returning board members are Shirley Pearson,, Secretary; Brianne Pearson, Fund Development; Casey Kilduff, Programs; Jeff Loyer, Library; Gabi Clayton, Newsletter; Barb Klein, At Large; and Myra Barker, At Large.

XXX has resigned as Webmaster and from the board. Alec and Gabi will take over doing the website for the time being.

A special thank you to all of our outgoing board members for all you have done!

PFLAG-Olympia Alert

Announcements of all chapter events sent you. To subscribe, email newsletter@pflag-olympia.org. With "Subscribe Alert" in the subject line or in the message. Sorry, we do not mail out alerts — this is available only through email.

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.

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

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:

info@pflag-olympia.org

Website:

<http://pflag-olympia.org>

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 2/15/2003

Mail submissions to:

**HeartBeat
P.O. Box 12732
Olympia, WA 98508-2732**

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.org