



HeartBeat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 62 March-April, 2004

Thinking about this marriage stuff

By Jeff Loyer

Roses are Red, and I'm a great Poet,
Violets are Blue, so I wrote this Noet.

My valentine for Betsy started with that — the poetry didn't get much better, but hopefully she knew I loved her when it was all done. And it got me to thinking about this marriage stuff...

The sanctity of marriage has come under fire, and people are scared and angry — very scared and angry.

My in-laws have been married a LONG time (60 years). They're best friends, reliable companions, business partners, ultimate allies. Their love for each other is a wonderful thing to behold.

I've been married a bit, also (21 years). Betsy is my best friend, reliable companion, business partner, ultimate ally, walking partner, the one who's been there when I've come out of anesthetic, the one I want beside me when things go their worst, or best. We have grown a lot together — accepting each other's flaws and continuing to work to be the best person for each other.

My marriage hasn't been a bed of roses, though. Tough times (very tough) at 7, 14, & 20 years. And some lukewarm times, also. But, somehow we've weathered the storms and, at this point, I'm pretty darn sure we're going to weather the coming squalls. (I think my in-laws might share that their marriage hasn't been without trial, either.)

What I've really liked about marriage:

- ▼ Holding hands
- ▼ Cuddling
- ▼ Great hugs (and a smooch or two) at airports
- ▼ Flying together, so I can snooze on her shoulder
- ▼ Traveling together (be it backpacking, driving, flying, whatever) so that, even if we don't get where we intended, we still have lots of fun

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▼ SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2-4:30 PM

Legal Marriage Alliance

Our program for March will feature Barb Rhoads-Weaver and Alicia Lewis from Legal Marriage Alliance of Washington. They will be speak about the importance of marriage equality, the latest developments in the United States and around the world, and what can be done locally.

▼ SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2-4:30 PM

Gender Variant Health Care

Featured at the April meeting will be information on health care for transgendered persons with guests from the Gender Variant Health Care project.

PFLAG-Olympia 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 time/snacks
3:30-4:30 p.m.	Program (see above)

Put the **FUN** in Fundrai\$ing!

By Evelyn Hinken

It's inevitable. Sometimes a great PFLAG program is going to cost money. Materials, honorariums, advertising. The behind-the-scenes work to bring a good program to life. So that we can expand our community presence, PFLAG-Olympia is starting a fundraising committee.

We'll have a short first meeting immediately after the March 14th PFLAG general meeting. Barb and Evelyn will be co-chairing. If you have any questions, ideas, comments... please call Evelyn at 360-923-9548.

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.



PFLAG
Olympia, Washington

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

MEETS at 2PM on the second Sunday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, 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 the lot at 5th Avenue and Boundary and enter through the glass doors.

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Letters, articles and requests for literature are welcome.

Mailing address:

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*

Email: info@pflag-olympia.org
Website: <http://www.pflag-olympia.org>

Marriage

(Continued from page 1)

- ▼ Waking up next to my best friend
- ▼ Being able to count on her
- ▼ Having someone to tell me when I'm being insensitive, boorish, funny, long-winded, handsome, kind
- ▼ Sex (obviously, this list is in no particular order)
- ▼ Laughing together
- ▼ Weighing issues

Granted, being "married" doesn't guarantee getting these things, and I'm sure everybody's list is different. But, I think marriage can be a wonderful thing, and I can't imagine anyone who shouldn't be allowed to have it (while knowing it's not for everyone, either).

Of course I could do all these things without the "marriage" title, but I like the label. I want society to help celebrate love, and recognize that committing your life to someone requires special legal rights regarding that person. If we're willing to promise to be there always, we share property rights and responsibilities, and make medical decisions together. And I want these things for all three of my daughters. I don't want my Lesbian daughter to be "separate but equal" — it hasn't worked in America's past, and it's not going to work for GLBTs.

I'm confident that we'll eventually win equal rights (including marriage) for GLBTs; I think any other conclusion would be absurd. In 10 years many people are going to feel embarrassed at the stance they've taken today. Meanwhile, we've got a challenge — that somehow people feel threatened by our broadening the definition of marriage. And it seems to be coming to a head right now. We have to gently (or not so gently) teach the general population that what we're after is a beautiful and admirable thing that's not going to affect the value of "traditional" marriages.

Maybe a "GLBT" section of Hallmark cards in Safeway is a little too much to hope for just now, but it's coming. Until then, let me know if you need a great poem...

.....
"A 'normal' person is the sort of person that might be designed by a committee. You know, each person puts in a pretty color and it comes out gray."
— Alan Sherman

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 4/15/2004

Mail submissions to:
HeartBeat
P.O. Box 12732
Olympia, WA 98508-2732

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.org

Benefit concert for The Rainbow Center

hosts of Capital City Pride

Captain Smartyants



Washington Center for the
Performing Arts

512 Washington Street SE, Olympia

Saturday, March 27th
2-4 and 6-8 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 (\$15 seniors, \$10 UCAN and Stonewall) box office 360-753-8586

Afterglow presented by Black Hills Pride at 8 p.m. at the Urban Onion 116 Legion Way, Olympia

PFLAG Dinner at Darby's with Captain Smartyants

Join friends and family for a delicious
chicken or vegetarian dinner

March 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Dinner \$25 per plate — proceeds benefit PFLAG

Limited seating. Call early for reservations.

360-357-6229

Darby's Café 211 5th Ave SE, Olympia

The MARCH of GLBT History



March 4, 1969 - **Chastity Bono** is born to singers Sonny and Cher. She would grow up to become an openly lesbian human rights activist, musician and author.



March 17, 1912 - **Bayard Rustin** is born. Rustin was a Quaker and an African-American. He was a Gay man and a pacifist; a scholar and a human rights activist at home (working to protect the property of interned Japanese-American families during WWII, to abolish chain gangs, to desegregate busses) and all over the world. He was also the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, where King made his famous "I have a dream..." speech. Read more at: <http://www.lambda.net/~maximum/rustin.html>



March 21, 2000 - The remains of **Steen Keith Fenrich** are discovered. It turns out that the gay, African-American teen was tortured and murdered by his white, homophobic, racist stepfather. Read more at: <http://www.stophate.us/steen.html>



March, 1997 - Everything we thought we knew about gender as malleable is called into question when **David Reimer's** story is finally told ... David Reimer, an identical twin, was mutilated at 8-months old in a botched circumcision and then surgically reassigned by Dr. John Money and raised as a girl. But he never felt female on the inside (even though his parents followed Money's advice and hid the fact of his birth sex from him), despite Money's claims to the contrary. His life, especially at school, was sheer hell because others never really perceived him to be a girl either, despite his girl *drag*. By age 16, Reimer underwent a second reassignment at his own insistence so that he could live as the boy he knew himself to be. In the meantime, however, Money had convinced the medical establishment and the lay public, despite growing evidence to the contrary in his "girl" twin, that babies could be arbitrarily assigned a gender with no psychological consequences. Today, still, five children a day are surgically "corrected" at birth because of this one "case study" and Money's defense of his handling of David's life. Reimer would work with author John Colapinto to tell his story to the lay public, first under a pseudonym, in *Rolling Stone* [http://www.healthyplace.com/Communities/Gender/intersexuals/article_john_joan.htm] and eventually, in his own name, in Colapinto's book, *As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who was Raised as a Girl*.



March 17, 1938 - **Rudolph Nureyev** is born to Muslim peasant parents in Siberia. Nureyev has been called "perhaps the greatest dancer who ever lived" and is known to have had intense affairs with men. Nureyev defected from the Soviet Union and lived in France and the U.S. on and off. He died in Paris of AIDS-related complications on January 6, 1993. Read about him at: http://www.tutorgig.com/encyclopedia/getdefn.jsp?keywords=Rudolf_Nureyev



March 21, 1962 - **Rosie O'Donnell** is born. Rosie's heritage is Irish-American. She will grow up to be an actress, comedienne, talk show host, children's advocate and mom ... and an openly lesbian partner and defender of gay/lesbian adoption.

Note: These were taken from the Safe Schools Coalition Web site. To see more, go to <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/history/LGBTHistoryMarch.htm>

From the Shelf By Evelyn Hinken

PFLAG-Olympia has a lending library! Yeah, OK, so we've had one for a while, but how many of you know of its existence?

We have quite the selection of reading materials from dealing with parental issues to novels, from poetry to coming out stories. These books are available for check out each month at the PFLAG meeting. Come browse the shelves and check out a few. If you are done with some good books that need a good home, consider donating them to the PFLAG library. Beginning with the next issue, we'll have some reviews of the books in our library. Reading is a great way to pass a rainy afternoon.

Day of Silence April 21
<http://www.dayofsilence.org>

Buy PFLAG-Olympia Gear

with the "Been Out Lately" graphic from our billboard campaign

t-shirts ~ sweat shirts
coffee mugs ~ mouse pads
BBQ aprons ~ tile coasters
canvas tote bags ~ boxer shorts

Buy yours now on the web at
http://www.cafeshops.com/pflag_oly

