



# HeartBeat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 68 March-April 2005

## A Wedding Moment

By Brianne Pearson

Not too long ago my parents and I attended the wedding of one of my mom's former co-workers. As a friend of the bride I was excited. I was glad she'd found someone who makes her happy. As a queer person, I was kinda hesitant.

I knew that I would have some sadness mixed in with my joy for the bride. So, I had mixed feelings when we arrived and settled into our seats. Not two minutes had passed when the man seated next to my mother introduced himself and asked if she had any kids. She replied that, yes, she has three children. Then she said that I was her youngest daughter. And he pretty much told her that he didn't believe I was her daughter. Now, I don't really have a problem with people assuming I'm a boy, in fact, sometimes I prefer it (but that's an entirely different story). But I am still my mom's little girl, so she quickly corrected him.

Not the greatest start for a queer at a straight wedding.

Anyway, I'm sitting there, working myself into quite a funk, when the ceremony starts. In my head I'm wondering what is so wrong about my wanting to have this for myself. And in turn, arguing back that I can, just not with legal benefits. Just when I'm fully settling my mind into "Gay Wedding Argument" mode, I'm pulled abruptly from my mental ramblings by these words (and I'm totally paraphrasing here):

"And now the bride and groom would like me to talk for a moment about gay weddings."

Hold up, did that man just say what I thought he did? I turned to my mom and saw what was probably a reflection of the dumbfounded look upon my own face. Yep, indeed, in the middle of a straight wedding, the pastor started an equal marriage rights speech. How cool is that?

I guess I could go on about gay marriage for awhile. But, for me anyway, that's not what this essay is for. I just wanted to share with everyone, that, indeed, straight allies can, and do, rock. Feeling completely included in the bride and groom's special moment is something I will always remember. A very special thank you to them.

### 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.



▼ SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2-4:30 PM

### GLBT Adoption

Adoption advocates will give an overview of the different ways gay and lesbians can adopt. This program will be informational as well as a interactive discussion and question-and-answer session.

▼ SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2-4:30 PM

### Dialogue and Transition An open discussion on programs and support

What do you hope to get out of our regular monthly PFLAG meetings? Are there ways we can make the meetings more relevant for you? At the April meeting we will change our usual format and have a facilitated discussion on topics such as whether or not the usual break-out support group discussions are meeting the needs of our members and friends who attend.



We want to know what changes we may be able to make to bring about improvements. This will be your opportunity to speak up if you have any concerns about the way PFLAG-Olympia meetings are run and to give us ideas.

### 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)



**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.

.....  
*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](mailto:info@pflag-olympia.org)  
Website: <http://www.pflag-olympia.org>

## Dining Out For Life!

If you only eat out once in April, make it on Thursday, April 28. You can help in the fight against AIDS just by dining out at one of your favorite restaurants!

Over 70 restaurants in Pierce and Thurston counties will contribute 25% of the day's sales to help fight AIDS in the South Sound region.

Invite your friends and family to join you as you DINE OUT...For LIFE!

**Beneficiaries: The Pierce County AIDS Foundation**

<http://www.piercecountyaid.org>

and **United Communities AIDS Network (UCAN)**

<http://www.ucan-wa.org>

More information:

<http://www.diningoutforlife.com/home.php?city=16>

*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 10th of even-numbered months. The editors reserve the right to reject or edit material.

**The deadline for the next issue is 4/10/2005**

Mail submissions to:

**HeartBeat**

**P.O. Box 12732**

**Olympia, WA 98508-2732**

Or email to: [newsletter@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:newsletter@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.

## 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](http://www.cafeshops.com/pflag_oly)