



# HeartBeat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 75 May-June 2006

## Happy Pride Season!

By Darrelyn Kamerman



*PFLAG-Olympia serves Pancakes at Pride 2005*

It's that time of year again. No, not Christmas, no, not Mardi Gras either. It is Pride season. The season where all the GLBTQ's get to strut there stuff. It may be the most important time in a young Queer's life.

For those of you who do not know or have never been to a Gay Pride Festival, here is your opportunity to learn a little history. In the late 1960s police raids on gay bars were

not uncommon. People were arrested and charged with the great crime of indecency. Many were charged because they were holding hands, kissing or for merely being present in the bar at the time of the raid. To make matters worse it was also common practice to publish the names of all who were arrested in the newspaper. Like I said, this had been going on for years.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> of 1969 police raided a bar called the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York. There are mixed accounts of why the patrons chose to rise up on that night. What matters though is that they did. A brawl broke out and the police were overwhelmed. It moved onto the street and a riot ensued. Throughout the night word spread that the cops were targeting effeminate men and more people rallied to help. Many were beaten; a few were arrested and for the very first time a crowd of roughly 2000 chanted "Gay Power". The riot police arrived but they could not quell the anger from years of oppression. Rock, bottles, sticks; anything that could be used as a weapon was thrown at the police. By the next evening the mob was less violent but just as determined. The riots continued for several nights and civil unrest continued through the next year. On the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots a march was organized from the Stonewall Inn to Central Park in honor of those who fought. Some 5,000 to 10,000 men and women attended this 'parade'.

Every year since then the number of cities that recognize the right to live as a free human being grows around the world. Our fair city of Olympia is holding it's annual Pride parade on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Seattle's is the following weekend. It's an opportunity to be loud and proud. It's a time to honor the GLBTQ police officers, fire fighters and drag queens. It's our moment to remember those we have lost and meet those we have just discovered. It's a chance to dance and wear odd costumes. It's an opportunity to love our children for who they really are. It's a chance to say to each other we are not invisible. We are here to stay.

The Pride parade is now a symbol of rising up against oppression. It represents a time of unity and reminds the world that the GLBTQ community deserves the same rights as others. Join us where we can freely waive our rainbow flags and celebrate the season.



### ▼ SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2-5 PM

#### Super Support

Approximately once a year we do Super Support, which is when all our members — glbt, parents and straight allies — come together for mutual support and discussion during the second half of the meeting, the time usually set aside for a guest speaker, panel or other program. This is a loosely structured discussion that in the past has proven to be highly stimulating and valuable. Please come.

### ▼ SUNDAY, 11, 2-4:30 PM

#### Assisted Living

Our plan on a program on assisted living had not been finalized at press time. When we get details, or if we need to change the program, we will announce it on the e-mail alert list.



#### 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)

## We need you to help out at Pride.

Every year at Capital City Pride PFLAG serves pancakes in the park before the parade and also runs an informational table. We need members to volunteer to help set up, to serve pancakes, to staff the booth, and to take it all down at the end of the day. At the May and June meetings we will be passing out sign-up sheets for volunteers. Please step forward to help.

### 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.

## BUY PFLAG-OLYMPIA GEAR

t-shirts ~ sweat shirts  
coffee mugs and more

Buy yours now on the web at

[http://www.cafeshops.com/pflag\\_oly](http://www.cafeshops.com/pflag_oly)



# 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>

*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 6/15/2006**

Mail submissions to:

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

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

## Women "coming out" after 30

a peer-facilitated support group

for women over the age of 30 who are "coming out" or have previously come out as queer, lesbian or bisexual, or who are questioning their orientation.

**Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from  
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Unity Church of Olympia  
1335 Fern Street SW**

For more information, please contact

Carmen 360-870-8585  
[carmen333@comcast.net](mailto:carmen333@comcast.net)