



HeartBeat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 77 Sept.-Oct. 2006

Looking back and looking forward

By Alec Clayton



Beverly Shouviller showing off her "Better Than Sex" cake at the PFLAG picnic.

Summer's almost over and so is my tenure as president of PFLAG-Olympia, which means this is a good time to reminisce about the four years I've served as PFLAG-Olympia's chapter president -- a job that I have loved because I have been working with some of the best people in the world.

I was in the hospital in October of 2001, recovering from open heart surgery, when Mike Walsh called me and asked if I would be willing to succeed him as chapter president. I can't remember exactly what I said, but it was probably something like, "If I live long enough." Anyway, I accepted the nomination with gratitude and a certain amount of fear (actually a helluva lot of fear) that I might not be up to the job.

One of the most exciting things to happen during my term was when we secured a grant from the Pride Foundation in Seattle for a billboard campaign. Teresa Guarardo wrote the grant proposal and, she along with Gabi,

designed the billboards featuring an open door and the slogan "Been Out Lately?" We were able to place seven billboards in seven different locations: two locations on Martin Way in Lacey, three downtown Olympia locations on Capitol Way and 5th Ave. and two West Olympia locations on Harrison Blvd and Division.

It was wonderful to see PFLAG's message posted larger than life in various Olympia locations. We were never able to determine whether or not the campaign actually resulted in bring new members to our chapter, but what we heard from many glbtq people in the community that was even more rewarding was that the billboards made them feel validated and accepted in the community. Many who attended meetings commented about stories they were hearing as a result of the billboards. Stonewall Youth teens reported taking their parents by the billboards on purpose. At least one teen said he came out to his parent by using the billboard as inspiration. Comments were heard in workplaces about the liberal and accepting attitude in the Olympia and Lacey areas toward lesbians and gays.

Another Pride Foundation grant funded the "Our House to the School House" safe schools project. We created informational packets for local schools including brochures, books, posters and videos, and gave them to area high schools (the previous year, in a program funded by our members, we placed books in area elementary schools). As part of the program, we also did speaking engagements at various schools and talked to principals and counselors about safety in the schools for glbtq students. Teachers have said the materials were invaluable, and as recently as this summer we've had teachers ask for additional materials.

Members of our chapter testified before the legislature to help secure the passage of an anti-bullying bill mandating that schools protect all students -- specifically including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students -- from bullying. We also testified in hearings on the civil rights bill sponsored by Sen. Ed Murray, which added sexual orientation and gender identity to protected classes in housing and job discrimination. Last year the bill was defeated by a single vote, but the next year it passed, and Gov. Gregoire signed it into law. Initiative guru Tim

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▼ SUNDAY, SEPT. 10, 2-4:30 PM

Video: Trevor

We will show the award winning short film "Trevor" at our September meeting. It deals with the subject of gay youth suicide -- but the film is uplifting and hopeful despite the dire subject matter. A discussion will follow. (See more on this on page four of this newsletter).

▼ SUNDAY, OCT. 8 2-4:30 PM

Political issues

We will have a discussion of political issues including information of candidates who are running for election or re-election and where they stand on issues of vital concern to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning people.

PFLAG-Olympia Alert

PFLAG-Olympia Alert is an email service of PFLAG-Olympia designed to inform members of upcoming events, programs, and more. Email updates are sent out prior to each of our the regular second Sunday meetings and whenever something comes up that we think our members and friends need to know about. You can subscribe to the alert by sending an email to our newsletter editor at newsletter@pflag-olympia.org -- put "Subscribe PLAG-Olympia Alert in the subject line.

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)

Looking back and looking forward

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Eyman immediately filed petitions to override the law, but he was not able to get enough signatures to bring it to a vote. That was a great victory. The disheartening defeat that came soon after was when the state Supreme Court voted five-to-four not to overturn the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act. The judges who voted against equal marriage rights did so for highly questionable, bigoted and downright stupid reasons: that the purpose of marriage is procreation (which it is not) and that gays and lesbians can't raise children as well as straight people (which they certainly can), and that gays and lesbians are not discriminated against. Ironically, their justification for the latter claim was Sen. Murray's recently



PFLAG picnic at Burfoot Park, August 2006

Women "coming out" after 30 a peer-facilitated support group

Please join our ongoing, peer-facilitated, and completely confidential drop-in support group for women over the age of 30 (or thereabouts), who are "coming out" or have previously come out as queer, lesbian or bisexual, or who are questioning their orientation.

We also encourage women who are further along in their process of coming out over 30 so we may gain from your experience, strength and wisdom.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Unity Church of Olympia

1335 Fern Street SW

(When facing the church there is a small building on the left, walk in and turn left. There will be signs when you get to the church)

For more information, please contact
Carmen 360-870-8585
carmen333@comcast.net

passed civil rights bill, which took 20 years to pass. Because gays and lesbians had the political clout to get that bill passed, the justices reasoned, they are obviously not a "special" class. You'd think with reasoning like that they couldn't pass a freshman philosophy class, much less earn law degrees and get elected to the Supreme Court.

At our October meeting we will talk about some of these political issues and take a look at politicians up for election or re-election with an eye toward where they stand on glbtq issues.

Not long ago the board talked about the need to network with other community groups, and members of our chapter have taken an active role in such groups as Capital City Pride and the Rainbow Center, and its offshoot the online magazine *Rainbow Journal Olympia*. Three years ago we started the tradition of serving pancakes in the park before the annual Pride event, and that has become a hugely popular success. Something else that has become a popular tradition is our annual holiday "Points of Light" ceremony, which always takes place at the December meeting. And PFLAG's participation in Pride and our August has grown larger every year. Both were really popular this year. It was especially gratifying to see a bunch of new people and out-of-town visitors at the picnic.

Looking ahead with great hopes for PFLAG-Olympia,
Alec Clayton

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 10/15/2006

Mail submissions to:

HeartBeat

P.O. Box 12732

Olympia, WA 98508-2732

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.org

The PFLAG Mission

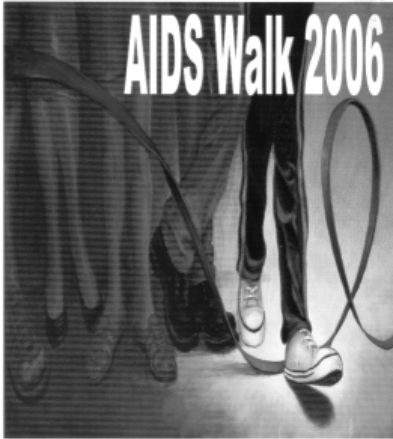
To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through:

- ▼ 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.

Spread the word...

UCAN's 16th Annual AIDS Walk is Sunday, September 24th Tumwater Historical Park ~ 777 Simmons Road SW, Olympia

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES



10:00AM - Registration at Tumwater Historical Park. Meet fellow walkers and team members. Refreshments and music will be provided. Turn in Pledge forms and donations.

10:30AM - Opening ceremonies and warm up exercises.

11:00AM - AIDS Walk 2006 begins.

12:30 PM - Post-walk refreshments, awards and music at Tumwater Historical Park.

WALK ROUTE - Three and five mile routes. Walkers will start at Tumwater Historical Park, travel around Capitol Lake to Heritage Park

and return back to Tumwater Historical Park for refreshments, awards presentations and music!

PRIZES - Following the walk, prizes will be awarded for individual adult, age 17 and under youth, adult team and youth team. South Sound Bank will donate \$250 to the top youth organization / team (school, community, faith based, etc.) that raises the most money. (Teams must raise a minimum of \$500 to be eligible for prize.) One grand prize will also be awarded for individual fundraising, an "Until There's a Cure" 14K gold bracelet donated by Ben Bridge Jewelers.

Get Involved - Be a Team Captain!

Why walk alone? Generate support and become a community leader! Being a Team Captain is easy and fun! It's more enjoyable to walk with a group of people you know. Contact UCAN at (360) 352-2375 and ask for a Team Captain packet, or go to our website at <http://www.ucan-wa.org>. The Packet contains everything you need to form your team, including tips on how to recruit team members, fundraising, and motivational tips to help recruit family, friends and co-workers to join you for AIDS Walk 2006.

Every walker who raises \$200 will receive a commemorative AIDS T-shirt. The team captain packet in pdf format is online at <http://www.ucan-wa.org/tch.pdf>

- HIV/AIDS continues to affect people from all walks of life: they are our children, our brothers and sisters, our partners and friends, our parents and spouses, sons, daughters, co-workers, teachers - the list goes on.
- Nationally, it is estimated that 1,000,000 people are infected with HIV, and HIV/AIDS is the second leading cause of death for young Americans age 25-44.
- In Washington State, 15,253 have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, and in Thurston County alone there are as many as 200-250 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A's).
- In 2005, UCAN served 118 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A), and so far this year has seen 8 new clients.
- In addition, our education/outreach programs reached over 8,000 community members with prevention messages.
- Your participation in this year's AIDS walk helps support the continuation of our programs, making an important contribution to our community.
- By walking, you help UCAN meet its mission to provide HIV/AIDS awareness, care, and prevention services.

For more information, contact:

United Communities AIDS Network
147 Rogers Street NW
Olympia, Washington 95802
360-352-2375
info@ucan-wa.org
<http://www.ucan-wa.org>

Thoughts on coming out

"Each at their own time, each at their own pace, each in their own way. Coming out is a process, a journey, not a race. Unlike most journeys, there is no one destination in mind, only a direction. Keep on. When you stray, or slow down, don't be afraid to ask advice or direction. Your journey is yours alone, and regardless of where you end up, or when, don't let anyone else plan the trip." - Steve Basile

"Straight Americans need... an education of the heart and soul. They must understand - to begin with - how it can feel to spend years denying your own deepest truths, to sit silently through classes, meals, and church services while people you love toss off remarks that brutalize your soul." - Bruce Bawer in *The Advocate*, April 1998

"My reason for coming out now isn't to be some sort of hero. It's not something that I want to throw in people's faces. I'm just at a point in my life where I'm tired of having to pretend to be somebody I'm not." — Sheryl Swoopes

Don't miss the Trevor Project film and discussion in September!

The Trevor Project is a nationwide suicide prevention and education project, and The Trevor Helpline (866) 4U-trevor (866-488-7386) is the nation's only 24-hour suicide prevention hotline for gay and questioning youth.

"Trevor" the film won the 1994 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short and 1995 San Francisco International Film Festival Golden Gate and Audience Award for Best Short Film.

"Trevor" is an 18-minute film told through a series of diary entries, following 13-year-old Trevor, a passionate Diana Ross fan who strives for attention from his parents by frequently faking suicides...to no avail.

To his delight, Trevor is befriended by a hunky school athlete named Pinky Faraday, upon whom he develops a crush. When he confesses how he feels about Pinky to his best friend Walter Stiltman, not realizing anything is unusual about his feelings, his friend turns on him and word spreads at school that Trevor is gay.

Shortly thereafter, a confused Trevor is ostracized by all of his friends and in his ensuing pain, he goes to such lengths as to give himself electric shocks to reverse his apparent homosexuality, runs away from home, and ultimately attempts real suicide while lip-syncing to the song "Endless Love."

When Trevor awakes in the hospital, he meets Jack, a young candy-striper with a supportive demeanor and a pleasant bedside manner. Jack's friendship and advice, along with his offer of a free ticket to see Diana Ross, inspire Trevor to live. The film closes with a buoyant Trevor dancing up the sidewalk to his parents' house while singing Diana Ross' "I'm Coming Out".

We will show the film at the September PFLAG meeting and will have a discussion after the viewing. We will also have posters and other educational materials provided by the Trevor Project. Please don't miss this important program. If you have contacts with school teachers or administrators, please invite them to join us. The film will be shown beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the regular PFLAG meeting on Sept. 10.

For more information visit the Trevor Project Web site at <http://www.thetrevorproject.org>



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

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

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**