



HEARTBEAT



PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 84 Nov.-Dec. 2007

Our first auction ever — a big success!

by Kristin Stewart



PFLAG-Olympia members & friends out for a night of fun and fundraising

So we went to a PFLAG Board Meeting only to discover that we were desperately short of funds. What were we to do? Kudos, kudos, kudos to Shirley Pearson for suggesting we put on an auction (we all looked at her like she was crazed), and then watched as she moved forward against all odds! She almost, but not quite, single handedly organized and pulled off this very first PFLAG auction. She and her committee found great auction items, found a venue (the Unitarian Universalist Church on Olympia's Westside), organized folks to provide decorations (including Betsy Loyer and Marsha Weaver), provided amazing treats for attendees (Shirley and Brianne Pearson), and also provided treats to be auctioned.

They arranged for Jerry Wagner to entertain us on the piano. (Thank you, Jerry.) Shirley and Paul Pearson funded the cost of the church initially and did most everything to make this night a success. In fact, it was a grand success. PFLAG Olympia made about \$1500.00 which is enough to fund the organization for about one half of a year! We have never had quite such a fundraiser! On top of that phenomenal success, the whole evening was great fun! So if you missed this wonderful event this year, please plan to attend next year. We will welcome items for the auction, and people to bid on them!

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

by Virgil S. Clarkson

As members of PFLAG, which is a single organization with a very limited scope, when do we begin to broaden our horizons to participate in the broader community? It appears that we have limited ourselves to a very narrow niche, at the same time crave for support, attention and recognition.

As a member of the minority community, my limitations could have been restrained by the many negative forces that had and have been placed upon me and in front of me. But at some early time in my life I had to decide that my limited world and my understanding would allow me to reach beyond my limited experiences.

As an African-American male many barriers were placed before me. I came from a family with no father. My father died when I was 13 months old of diabetes. My mother had very little education. Only completing the 3rd grade. But she instilled in her three children not to limit our selves because of our circumstances.

My older brother completed his PhD in Mathematics and taught at a four year University for more than 50 years. He also contributed to many scientific and Mathematics national and international research organizations. My Sister completed her PhD in environmental medicine. She also taught at a four year University. She developed many young people aspiring to go into the medical and nursing fields.

This brings this discussion to me. Since I was not an academician, my interests were in governmental affairs. I always was interested in how government worked at the basic level. Therefore, I spent most of my work life in government employment;

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▼ SUNDAY, NOV. 11, 2-4:30 PM

An update and discussion on ENDA and GLBT political action groups. A look at the status of the Employment Non-discrimination Act and information on GLBT political action groups both locally and nationally.

▼ SUNDAY, DEC. 9, 2-4:30 PM

Holiday party and White Elephant Swap. It's party time folks. Let's get together and celebrate the season. And bring a white elephant gift from holidays past (or birthdays or whatever). Everybody gets a gift plus up to three opportunities to swap gifts. Which white elephant will you be stuck with at the end of the day?

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)

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

(Continued from page 1)

working for two State agencies here in Washington. But I knew I had something to offer others besides work, not just self-serving.

I saw my work as a means to contribute to the workforce, but not as a means to contribute to my community. Or I could have said as an African American, I can't do things in the broader community. But instead I said In order to fit into my newly adopted community; I began to participate and volunteer in many organizations, and helping to start others. To give examples:

I carried the Torch for the Olympic Games in Chehalis Washington into the city of Olympia.

I was responsible for legislation that passed to benefit all Washington citizens with Diabetes. By reducing the cost of necessary medical supplies and training individuals to manage diabetes. This was signed into law by Governor Locke on January 1, 1998.

As one of the founding members in establishing and chartering the Olympia Opera Guild, it was great moment for culture in our county. 1965

Assisting in getting Open Housing Ordinances passed in the Cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater and Thurston County. 1968

I was a charter member in bringing a branch of the Tacoma Urban League to our community to help support the growing cultural diversity in Thurston County. 1970

Member of Kiwanis Club of Olympia for 40 years. Elected

Lieutenant Governor in 1978.

Member of the Thurston County Fair Board for 25 years. Elected President four times.

A member of the Red Cross of Thurston & Mason County for 7 Years. Elected President in 1990.

Donates a pint of Blood to the Regional Blood Bank every 56 days. I am working on my 200th pint for donation. I have donated 118 pints of blood. Currently, on the Blood Council of South Puget Sound.

1998 - Appointed to the City Council, in Lacey WA

1999 - Elected to the City Council in Lacey WA

2001 - Elected Deputy Mayor

2003 - Elected Mayor to present

Many members in this PFLAG have leadership, great skills and knowledge to share and pass on to others. What can you do? Who can you serve? Or are there other civic contributions you can make?

We need to ask ourselves these questions:

How many community boards do you sit on to provide guidance?

How many youth do you tutor when so many are failing in math and reading, etc.

How often do you volunteer at agencies that need a helping hand; i.e. senior services, meals on wheels Food Bank?

When do you contribute to the needy, with food baskets, clothing for children for school? Free medical clinics, etc.

When do you give of your self to others outside of your circle of friends? The giving season is approaching, see if you can find some organization to share your knowledge, skill and talents with, to benefit the larger community. Let's not be so locked in our own little world that we can't see the larger world swirling around us. Where do we go from here?

NEW or RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

Please check the membership types you prefer:

Individual \$35

Household \$50

Senior/Student/Low Income \$15

New Renewal

Membership \$ _____

Add this amount as my tax-exempt gift (thank you!) \$ _____

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 newsletter *PFLAGpole* (which is not mailed in an envelope).

I want to be added to the PFLAG-Olympia email alert/announcement list (include your email address.)

DATE: ____/____/____ PHONE: (____)____-____

SIGNED: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Mail with your check to: 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 National Blog!
Moving equality forward ...
one post at a time!

<http://www.pflag.org/blog/>

Remember this

From Patricia Novotny's opening statement on for the Washington State Supreme Court Marriage Equality Hearing:

We are here to ask merely that Washington fulfill the promise of liberty and equality made to all its citizens. In your assessment of our challenge, I ask the court to look forward, not merely backwards. And to remember that both liberty and equality were and are radical and experimental ideas. That WE as a people embraced democracy not because a study showed us how well it works, but because of our faith in these principles and our trust in the future they would help us to build.

There have been efforts in this case to exploit fear – fear of change, fear of difference. I ask you to consider fear of failure: fear of failing our own promise and destiny. That promise requires vindication of our clients' right to marry.

It's time for Gay Marriage

By Jeff Loyer

Recently there was a discussion in our GLBTQ e-mail reflector at work regarding the Oregon Domestic Partnership law. One person said "Good grief. When will the opponents get it we are not going after marriage?" That got me to thinking ...

I used to believe that we weren't going after marriage — instead, we wanted everyone to have "Civil Unions" that were endorsed by the government, and "Marriages" would be administered by churches. But, I've changed my mind.

Instead, I now strongly believe we are after "Marriage Equality". The primary change I'm working for is to remove the qualification of gender from the U.S. definition of marriage.

This doesn't force any church to perform a marriage, just as they aren't forced to "marry" divorced people. But it unequivocally places a marriage between 2 men or 2 women in the same regard as that between a man and woman.

Anything less is "separate but equal", demeaning to the wonderful gay and lesbian relationships I've witnessed and, in my opinion, not acceptable.

I also believe that Marriage Equality is critical to reduce

stigma towards homosexuality. Allowing me to refer to my heterosexual relationship as a "marriage" (with all its POWERFUL connotations), but an identical gay/lesbian relationships as a "domestic partnership" continues the myth that there is a profound difference.

And finally, I think it's more realistic to expect marriage equality than to change the U.S. definition of marriage to mean only a church-sponsored union. I just don't think you'll get folks to adopt the term "Civil Unions" for all government-sponsored partnerships.

It's time to push for Marriage Equality, and accept nothing less.

By the way, a very moving video of the Republican Mayor of San Diego explaining why he has changed his mind and now endorses gay marriage is available at www.equalrightswashington.org (scroll down the page).

Keep up the good fight!

EEEEEEK! WE LOST YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

Alec's hard drive crashed, burned, fried, escaped into a deep, dark hole where it can never be recovered. And he kept the e-mail alert mail list on that lost-crashed-fried hard drive. He did backup his data, but we didn't realize until it was too late that his e-mail wasn't being backed up. So, if you want to be put back on the PFLAG-Olympia e-mail alert list (and we hope you do) please send your e-mail address to newsletter@pflag-olympia.org. We're sorry. We'll start backing it up from now on and promise to try our best to never let it happen again.

Welcome out of the closet to life. It is a war zone, a furnace, an overgrown secret garden, a thunderstorm, a snowy morning, a bloody scalpel, and moonlit laughter. No one escapes unbloodied, except those who don't play, and they are the saddest of all, by far. - Ry Schwark

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
12/15/2007**

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

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.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

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.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTION

The November meeting is our annual business meeting, which means a few minutes will be set aside for board elections. Board members and officers up for election are:

- Jeff Loyer: Treasurer
- Alec Clayton and Brianne Pearson: Co-Presidents
- Julianne Wasilausky: Secretary, up for re-election
- Virgil Clarkson: up for re-election
- Gabi Clayton: website designer, returning to board

Current board members who will continue to serve and do not have to be elected this year are: Shirley Pearson, Kristin Stewart and Marsha Weaver.

Any member of PFLAG-Olympia who would like to run for the board may put him or herself up for election at the November meeting.



2007 PFLAG National Convention Photos



PFLAG
Olympia, Washington

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
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MEETS at 2PM on the second Sunday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia (except in August when we have our annual picnic at a local park.) 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>

Hello!

Just wanted to let everyone know that our photographer has uploaded all of his photos from the Convention to his website and is making them available for members to download high-res versions free of charge. (This means that you can download them and then send them to a site like PhotoWorks to create your own materials or prints.)

The link to instructions on how to download is here:
http://pflag.org/Convention_Photos.1229.0.html

Enjoy!

Jean-Marie

Jean-Marie Navetta
Director of Communications
PFLAG National

