



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

HeartBeat



Issue 90 ♦ Nov.-Dec., 2008

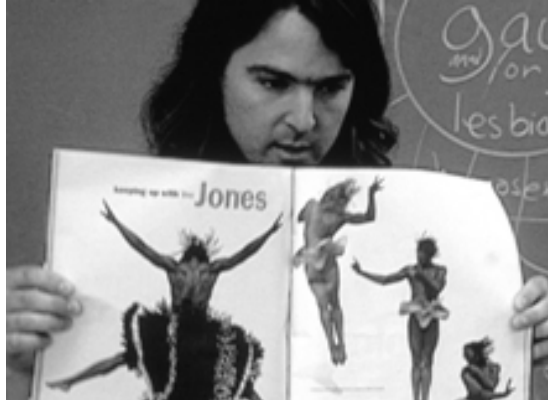
In July we showed the film "It's Elementary" followed by a great discussion. In November we will show the follow-up film, "It's Still Elementary."

Both films provide insights into how teachers can teach about glbtq issues in age-appropriate ways in elementary school.

STILL It's Elementary TALKING ABOUT GAY ISSUES IN SCHOOL

By revisiting some of the students in the first film 10 years later, the second film also shows how such lessons affected the young students, who are now in college or in the workforce.

**It's STILL Elementary
at next PFLAG meeting**



Here is GLAAD's OUTFEST Mini Review by Sarah Holbert:

When *It's Elementary* was released in 1996, it was truly groundbreaking. Very few school administrators thought it was possible to discuss gay or lesbian issues with young children. But when cameras followed teachers actually giving the lesson in their classrooms, many viewers had an "a-ha!" moment: Of *course* kids can understand these issues! Viewers watched as children critically discussed their own internalized homophobia, telling their teachers what they had learned (and mis-learned) from media and examining why some people think the way they do about gays and lesbians.

The film was really well-received, screening at festivals across the nation and then around the world. Many school districts were clamoring for it. Chicago Public Schools actually mandated that every single elementary school in the district work the film into its curriculum.

However, when *It's Elementary* secured a television deal with PBS, suddenly, the right wing attacked. Hateful propaganda was generated from anti-gay extremist groups, several of whom used the film to unify its base. PBS stations stood firm in the face of opposition and aired the film.

Perhaps the most poignant moments in *It's STILL Elementary*, though, is the follow-up with teachers and students featured in the first film, ten years later, to see how lessons about LGBT people changed their lives. It is incredible how many straight people confessed that participating in the film forever changed their opinions about gays and lesbians, and how they still use the lessons learned to educate others about their treatment of the LGBT community.

Both films were directed by Debra Chasnoff of Groundspark, and "It's Still Elementary" was co-directed by Johnny Symons, who wrote and directed the 2002 documentary "Daddy and Papa" — another fine film we have watched at PFLAG-Olympia.

In order to make sure we have time for discussion after the film we will condense the introductions, announcements and the break-out support parts of the meeting and start the film at about 3 p.m.



▼ SUNDAY, NOV. 9 2-4:30 PM

It's STILL Elementary — We will show the follow-up to "It's Elementary," with a discussion to follow. As with the showing of the original film, we may slightly change our meeting format to allow time for viewing and discussion.

See:

<http://www.groundspark.org/>

▼ SUNDAY, DEC. 14 2-4:30 PM

White Elephant Gift Exchange — It's party time! Once again we're going to celebrate the holiday season together with a white elephant gift exchange. No matter what you celebrate this holiday season — Christmas, Hanukah, Eid al-Adha, Winter Solstice, Rampant Consumerism, something else, or nothing at all — let's celebrate this remarkable PFLAG family of ours together.

The white elephant gift exchange works like this: bring some crazy, stupid, unwanted gift you have received to pawn off on your friends. When it's your turn you can either pick a gift or force a swap with somebody else. It's great fun! And of course there will be food.

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

Note: This meeting format may change depending on the program for any given meeting.

A word from the chapter president

When our predecessors in PFLAG-Olympia drew up the by-laws governing the operation of the chapter, they wisely chose to place term limits on board members. Without term limits, the same small group of people could run the chapter year after year after year, and it might be too easy for board members to abuse their power.

Furthermore, if just a handful of people do all the work and then one or more of those people is suddenly no longer able, the chapter could be left floundering. We would then end up with no one to plan programs, invite guest speakers, bring snacks to meetings, pay the bills, table at events and so forth.

Conversely, we might end up with the same handful of people having to do all the work. Without new board members the chapter would stagnate. These are situations we definitely want to avoid.

Recently we have had to amend our by-laws to allow for an exception to term limits if the membership of the board falls below a workable level. We have had to do this because our board membership has indeed fallen to dangerously low levels.

I should no longer be on the board at all. I had served my term as president in the past, but I agreed to serve again when there was no one else able to do it. Likewise, our Treasurer, Jeff, has served beyond his limit, as have other board members.

The problem is, I honestly don't know what would happen if any of us who are officers resigned or, for whatever reason, were unable to continue in our positions.

The bottom line is we need new board members, especially ones who may be willing and able to take on positions of responsibility in the coming years. Anyone who thinks they might like to serve on the board is encouraged to step forward. Remember, board meetings are open to all PFLAG members. Come to a meeting or two and see what you think of the possibility. We meet once a month on the Tuesday evening following our regular monthly meetings. We need you.

Are you online?

Subscribe to the PFLAG-Olympia Alert list!

The PFLAG-Olympia Alert is a one-way announcement e-mail listserv designed to inform our members and friends of upcoming events, programs, and more. Email updates are sent out prior to each of our the regular meetings and whenever something comes up that we think that our list subscribers might want to know about. Since this newsletter is published only every other month, the alert list provides an opportunity for more timely announcements. To subscribe, go online to:

<http://lists.pflag-olympia.org/listinfo.cgi/alert-pflag-olympia.org>

... and check out our blog! You could be a contributor! You can subscribe! <http://pflagolympiawa.blogspot.com/>

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: _____

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EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Mail with your check to: PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

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PFLAG

Olympia, Washington

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, phone numbers are on our website.

Email: info@pflag-olympia.org

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

Blog: <http://pflagolympiawa.blogspot.com/>