



# HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 97 ♦ Jan.-Feb. 2010

## Celebrating Black History Month and remembering Bayard Rustin

by Gabi Clayton

In July 2009 PFLAG-Olympia was chosen to participate in PFLAG National's new diversity outreach pilot program. Other PFLAG chapters that have been involved in this pilot project are: San Diego, Albany, GA, Minneapolis, Albuquerque, Cincinnati, and Washington, DC.

As the start of this program, in September we had an excellent full-day training here in Olympia — *PFLAG Tapestry: How do we interweave our stories and collaborate to move equality forward?* — put on by PFLAG's Western Field & Policy Manager Cesar Hernandez, and with PFLAG's Executive Director Jody Huckaby. The training included sections on self-awareness, cultural competence, outreach and coalition-building, developing an inclusive, collaborative chapter structure and more.



Because we recognize that we need to do a better job of welcoming and celebrating communities of color here, we are creating the main part of this project to focus on

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**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 2/15/2010**

Mail submissions to:

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

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



▼ **SUNDAY, JAN. 10, 2-4:30PM**

### What's Next

Now that we and our GLBTQ friends and family have won Referendum 71 granting domestic partners in Washington the same rights and privileges granted by the state to heterosexual married couples, what will be the next political and social battle? We'll have panel discussion at the January meeting with local activist Anna Schlecht and PFLAG Regional Director Kathy Reim from Kitsap County. We will learn about and discuss current issues — and how PFLAG can work with others to further the struggle for full equality for our GLBTQ family.

▼ **SUNDAY, FEB. 14, 2-4:30PM**

### Brother Outsider

We will screen the wonderful biography of Bayard Rustin, "Brother Outsider" for Black History Month. The Introduction, announcement and support parts of the meeting will be shortened in order to have time to view and discuss the movie. For more information of Bayard Rustin, see the cover article in this this newsletter.

### 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) |

Note—Sometimes we have a longer program time and shorten other parts of the meeting, and in August we meet in a local park instead of at the church, and that meeting is from 1-5p.m.

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outreach to and education about African American LGBTQ people and their families. Our plan is to find venues at college campuses (or other places) for screening the inspirational powerful film *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, which follows the life of this gay civil rights activist who was called an American Gandhi. We will also screen this film at our February PFLAG meeting.

Rustin has been credited with helping to mold the younger Martin Luther King Jr. into an international symbol of nonviolence and with organizing the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The screenings will be in February in honor of Black History Month.

“If I sit in the back of the bus I am depriving that child”—I pointed to a little white child of five or six—“of the knowledge that there is injustice here, which I believe it is his right to know. It is my sincere conviction that the power of love in the world is the greatest power existing. If you have a greater power, my friend, you may move me.” ~ Bayard Rustin

Despite these achievements he was silenced, threatened and fired from leadership positions. At times this was a reaction to his uncompromising political beliefs, but more often it was a homophobic or fearful response because he was an openly gay man.

Along with the screenings we plan to put together a resource packet about LGBTQ African Americans that we hope to make available on our website and perhaps in print.

If you would like to assist with ideas, resources and otherwise be involved with this project, please contact me. Email me at [gabiclayton@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:gabiclayton@pflag-olympia.org) or call me at (360) 556-4259 or my cell phone: (360) 888-5291.

## New board members

Six new board members were appointed in November, bringing the total number of board members to 13.

Catherine Dawdy was elected to take over as Treasurer, thus freeing Jeff Loyer to concentrate on Pizza Klatch and the library. Other new board members are: Bill Donner, Gloria Valtierra, Tom Doyle, Donna Doyle and Lynn Grotzky, who was invited to join the board as a Pizza Klatch liaison.

Returning board members are Alec Clayton (president, newsletter and website editor), Julianne Wasilausky (secretary), Gabi Clayton, Virgil Clarkson, Jeff Loyer, Kristen Stewart and Kaleigh Costello.

## Subscribe to the PFLAG-Olympia Alert list!

The PFLAG-Olympia Alert is a one-way announcement e-mail listserv designed to inform our members of upcoming events. To subscribe, go online to: <http://lists.pflag-olympia.org/listinfo.cgi/alert-pflag-olympia.org>

**“The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope.” ~ Barbara Kingsolver**

### NEW or RENEWAL PFLAG MEMBERSHIP

Please check the membership types you prefer:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35                | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$50                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator \$250  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/Low Income \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate \$500  |

New  Renewal

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add this amount as my tax-exempt gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I want Olympia's bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* (which is mailed in an envelope with no identified return address).

I want to be added to the PFLAG-Olympia email alert list.

**PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732**  
PFLAG is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization  
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# 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.

Mailing address:  
**PO Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732**

For more information  
email: [info@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:info@pflag-olympia.org)

or go to our website:  
<http://www.pflag-olympia.org>