



HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 99 ♦ May-June, 2010

QUEER NEW FUTURE

by Kaleigh Costello

As a collective, high school is hard enough to push through to graduation. With state exams, budding relationships and staying up all night doing work, the path to Grad Night can be jumbled and rocky. What about us queer youth? Is it assumed that it should be any different or even easier? Stereotyped into our closets as anti-social beings and the students you see walking down the halls close to the walls. Some think that hiding through high school would be easier for LGBTQ students so that harassment won't be inflicted upon them on a daily basis. I, like many other queer students, do not follow in that belief.

As a young queer woman coming out my freshman year, I was repressed and unhappy due to the fact that I had other people pushing me back into the closet. I could've chose to back down, keep my mouth shut and stay repressed. Or, I could speak up and not allow those comments to break my spirit. I am now a senior about to graduate from Olympia High School with more resources than I could've ever found imaginable. But, I am not the only youth that has pushed through the ignorance and is now seeking higher education.

A senior at Oly says this when asked what the most difficult thing in high school was to do and how it has affected her graduation. "Definitely telling my dad and getting him to think it's not a phase. It has made me want to graduate more and get out." This may be the case for many coming out in high school, but the homophobia doesn't end in the home, often it is transferred to schools as catchy as a cold.

Queer Junior also from Oly Hi states this when asked the same question, "Probably freshman year, my teacher didn't listen to me talk about being harassed in class, so I'd skip class. I skipped and got behind, eventually failed that class. I didn't and don't respect my former teacher at all." Whether it is faulty communication between school officials and students or disbelief, ultimately the student is going to back down or push through. In both of these youth's cases they have prevailed and are pushing for a brighter future.

A queer new future. Isn't that what PFLAG stands for? We are parents, families and friends of these queer youth and we fight every day to ensure their safety. As a queer woman, as a board member and as an ally I would like to thank PFLAG. I thank all of the parents, families and allies because you are incredible beings. You don't have to make the news, front page of the paper or even be mentioned on the radio but your presence is noted. In the hearts, minds and communities of queer youth, we acknowledge you, love you and cherish you standing by our sides during the good and bad days. You are our second backbone and always a part of us no matter what happens.



▼ **SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2-4:30PM**

Latino Month

May is Latino Month, and PFLAG-Olympia will celebrate our Latino brothers and sisters with guest speaker Agustin Ramos Torres, creator of "The Gay Men Mexican Forum." He will talk to us about what it's like to be a gay man in the Latino communities and talk about his work in the Forum.

▼ **SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2-4:30PM**

Transgender Resources Olympia & South Sound

A presentation and discussion with Rachel Welkin (and probably others) from the Olympia chapter of Gender Alliance of the South Sound (GASS). www.southsoundgender.com

Note: this is our regular monthly meeting which will be after the Capital City Pride Parade. See page 2 for more about Pride weekend.

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 1-4:30p.m.

Capital City Pride

This year's Pride celebration will be held on two days - Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, June 13. The festival in Sylvester Park will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Pride Parade will be Sunday starting at noon. Parade marchers will begin gathering at the Capital dome round 11 a.m. The parade will go from the capital to Sylvester Park. See: www.capitalcitypride.net
Note: this is the same day as the June PFLAG-Olympia meeting. The meeting will take place as usual from 2-4:30.

Paperless Newsletter?

In order to save paper, we encourage subscribers to this newsletter to switch to email only. If you make the switch we will send your newsletter as an email attachment in pdf format.

On the other hand, we know that a lot of people like to hold a paper version in their hands. Either way is fine. You can even get it both ways if you like.

If you want to get your newsletter electronically, send an email to newsletter@pflag-olympia.org.

Pacific Northwest PFLAG

We're not alone here in Olympia. There are other PFLAG chapters in the area and they are networked.

Going to Spokane for the week with relatives or spending some time in Portland and maybe want to visit another PFLAG chapter? You can find out about them on the regional website at <http://www.pnwflag.org>. Check it out. You'll have fun seeing what other chapters are up to.

Our PFLAG regional director, Kathy Reim lives in Skagit County, WA. Leaders from chapters in Washington and Northern Oregon have a monthly conference call to exchange information.

Subscribe to the PFLAG-Olympia Alert List!

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

Normal is nothing more than a cycle on a washing machine. ~ Whoopi Goldberg

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: _____

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

- I want Olympia's bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* print version only.
- I want Olympia's bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* sent as email only.
- I want Olympia's bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* both print and email.
- I want to be added to the PFLAG-Olympia email alert list.

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PFLAG is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization not affiliated with any political or religious institution.



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

or go to our website:

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