

PAL Project gets underway

Although some organizational and funding problems remain unresolved, Community Health Support Services (CHSS) has begun implementation of its PAL Project. The first of several which CHSS hopes to foster, the Personal Active Listener (PAL) Project will provide one-on-one peer counseling and practical support for persons with AIDS and other life-threatening conditions, as well as to their loved ones. The new volunteer based project seeks to serve women as well as men who are challenged by any critical or life-changing medical condition.

Using a structure and technique borrowed from the Shanti Project of San Francisco, the PAL Project will train volunteers to give non-judgmental, non-manipulative support to persons requesting assistance. The PAL's will be backed up by a support network which will aid their "clients" (or "friends" — a descriptor preferred by Project organizers) in working through the maze of rules and regulations to gain quick assistance from appropriate governmental and private agencies. Referrals for legal, medical, and spiritual assistance will also be provided, as well as help in obtaining low cost housing when needed.

"Diagnosis of a life-threatening illness is always difficult," according to Larry Whitson, Training Committee Co-chair. "When AIDS is involved, stigmatization greatly complicates anticipatory grief and bereavement processes. By providing a trained peer from outside the requestor's normal circle of family and friends, we can help him or her sort out the emotions and problems, just by listening and reflecting. When the person we're working with is ill, we hope that our presence will contribute to their physical as well as their emotional well-being.

A 44 hour training program, the first of which ended May 12th, covers two successive weekends. "We spend quite a lot of time providing information on AIDS treatment and death and dying issues," says Whitson, "but we concentrate on developing non-manipulative listening skills. We learn how to be vulnerable *ourselves*. It's a challenging, moving, and extremely rewarding process."

Funding remains a serious problem, according to Steve Fulmer who chairs the Organizing Committee. Grant requests are being submitted to half a dozen foundations, including United Way and Fred Meyer Charitable Trust, and several independent fund raising efforts are underway on behalf of the PAL Project.

An initial annual budget of about \$45,000 centers around low-cost office space, marketing costs and two part-time social workers who will work for a semi-volunteer wage. A half time administrative position is desirable, but lowest on the priority list. Actual cost of service (which is provided free) is less than \$1.50 per direct counseling hour, versus \$30-\$50 in most conventional programs. "Since we're so cost effective, we hope to be funded eventually by the tri-counties, but in the meantime we'll have to get money as best we can," Fulmer said.

Approximately thirty more volunteers are needed to fill the second training in mid-July. Volunteers need not have professional training or experience. Women, minorities and heterosexuals are particularly encouraged to apply. Persons with professional marketing experience are also badly needed. For more information and application materials, contact Tia Plympton or Douglas Bloom at the Phoenix Rising/Cascade AIDS Project office.

Phone 223-8299 or write: PAL Project, 408 SW 2nd Avenue — Room 407, Portland, OR 97204. You may also contact Steve Fulmer at 236-2429 or Larry Whitson at 287-0839.

Stonewall Run benefits Womens Crisis Line and Cascade AIDS Project

by R. Rupinski

The Portland Frontrunners will be hosting their Fourth Annual Stonewall Commemorative Run on Sunday, June 23, 9:30 a.m. at Duniway Park. This 10Km and 2 mile Fun Run is held each year in conjunction with Portland's Lesbian/Gay Pride Week. This year, \$2.00 of every application will be donated to the Women's Crisis Line and Cascade AIDS Project. The Women's Crisis Line provides counseling and support to women who have been the victims of violence or sexual harassment. The Cascade AIDS Project offers support and counseling to AIDS victims. Last year's race attracted over 150 entries and raised over \$300. This year's goal is to have 200 entrants.

Portland's Gay Community has been very supportive of the race, and this year have donated many prizes which will be offered in a drawing open to all entrants following the run. Miller Beer has donated a keg of beer for everyone's enjoyment, and efforts are now underway to have a member of Portland's City Council fire the starting gun.

The entry fee is \$7.00 preregistered, and \$9.00 day of race. Not only does \$2.00 of that fee help support Cascade AIDS and The Women's Crisis Line, but it also entitles you to a great looking T-shirt. In addition, ribbons will be awarded to all finishers of both the Fun Run and the 10Km race.

Runners coming in from out of town can call ahead to arrange housing with a local Portland Frontrunner on a first-come basis.

Race applications will be available from May 27 or, at Old Wives Tales, Nike Downtown & Beaverton, the Commonwealth YMCA, the Metro YMCA and at GI Joe's. For more information, applications, or to arrange housing, call 503-232-6004, or write to The Portland Frontrunners, 2015 SE 52nd Ave., Portland, Oregon 97215.

The run will be held rain or shine, and even if a 10Km race is a little too much for you right now, remember that there is also a 2 mile Fun Run, which everyone will be able to complete, if you just take your time! We really want to see you there, so COME OUT RUNNING!

Gay choruses play The Schnitz

by Steven Grayce

Emblazoned on the marquee of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Friday, June 28, will be the names of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles. It will be a sight to remember.

Inside, at 8 p.m., the two choruses will light up the stage of Portland's most beautiful and prestigious hall. The gay and lesbian community is expected to turn out in force to celebrate this landmark event.

The 80-man Portland Gay Men's Chorus will open the concert with a group of classical and popular songs, including a number from the hit musical *Zillions*, and a new arrangement of "My Funny Valentine," written for the occasion by Conductor David York.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles will

then take the spotlight with a similar set, ending with a group of 1940s songs like "Sentimental Journey," "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" and "On the Atchison, Topeka and the Sante Fe."

In the second half of the program, the two choruses will join forces for an 8-part motet from the 16th century, and a 7-part "Ave Maria" by Anton Bruckner. Popular songs to be sung by the combined choruses include "Great Day" and "Brand New Day," building to a thrilling climax with 140 gay men singing "I Am What I Am" and "The Best of Times" from *La Cage Aux Folles*.

There will be enough classical music to show off the musical excellence of the two choruses; enough rousing popular music to make it a stylish and entertaining evening for everyone.

Four new arrangements by David York are on the program. One "production number" has been choreographed by Portland dancer Joe Morales.

American Sign Language interpretation will be provided as a service for the hearing impaired.

On the following day — Saturday, June 29 — the two choruses will travel to Seattle, where they will perform in the Opera House along with the Seattle Men's Chorus and the Vancouver, B.C., Men's Chorus.

Tickets for the Schnitzer Hall concert are \$8 for the main floor and upper balcony; \$12 for the dress circle and mezzanine sections. They are available from Chorus members and at the Civic Auditorium box office, or at these businesses: C.C. Slaughter's, Dugan's, Forward Gear, the Primary Domain, Roxy Harts, The Embers, Starkey's 3, and Piggs-n-Penguins.

The finest imported coffee beans, teas, chocolates and beverage brewing accessories.



The Coffee Merchant

THE BROADWAY COFFEE MERCHANT
1637 N.E. Broadway
Portland, OR 97232 ■ 284-9209

THE HAWTHORNE COFFEE MERCHANT
3562 S.E. Hawthorne
Portland, OR 97214 ■ 230-1222

P
O
R
T
L
A
N
D

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF LOS ANGELES

Jerry Carlson, Conductor

AND

PORTLAND GAY MEN'S CHORUS

David York, Conductor

in the

ARLENE SCHNITZER CONCERT HALL

Friday, June 28, at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$8 and \$12

Available at C.C. Slaughter's, Dugan's, Forward Gear, The Primary Domain, Roxy Harts, The Embers, Starkey's 3, Piggs-n-Penguins, and at the Civic Auditorium box office

Signing Provided