Mimi Schneider

n the evening of June 9, 35 people gathered at St. Vincent's Hospital Chapel to remember Mimi Schneider, who died on Tuesday, June 7, at the age of 45, after a long struggle with cancer.

The group, predominantly women, included longtime friends, some of whom had become Mimi's immediate family, other friends who had known Mimi through her work with Phoenix Rising, career counseling groups and teaching, and a variety of people who had met her since her illness at support groups or in the hospital. Mimi's brother from California was present, with his girlfriend, as were several friends who had known her through Jewish women's groups, or through her vital interest in the study of history, which she pursued until very shortly before her death, with a class that met in her hospital room.

Mimi had taught women's studies and women's history at many colleges in the Northwest and in other parts of the country, including The New School in New York. She lived in Portland for several periods, interspersed with time spent in New York, where she worked for a women's union. She was also a creative photographer, and an exhibit of her photos was displayed at Dorothy's Gallery during the time she was in St. Vincent's.

At the memorial gathering almost everyone present shared memories of this woman and of her enduring love of life. One common theme was Mimi's ability to "chart her own course," and several speakers testified to the influence she had on them by choosing a life that was interesting, adventurous and entirely her own. Although she had been in great pain from bone cancer for several years, she always found the energy to pursue her intellectual interests, and recently enrolled in a Master's program in history at Portland State University. One of her instructors marveled at the fact that she had never missed a class, in spite of being in a wheelchair, with a large brace from head to hips supporting her weakened spine.

Another theme was Mimi's skill as a gourmet cook, and the care with which she loved to entertain. Despite never having much money, she managed to acquire beautiful things, loved lace (whether on her clothes or her tablecloths), and paid great attention to her surroundings. Even her hospital room reflected her aesthetic standards and her love of flowers.

Nursing staff, counselors, chiropractors and friends who had cared for Mimi testified to her courage and to the inquiring mind that sought to understand her approaching death, just as it had always sought the truth about the life she lived so fully and the history into which she was born. Many of us have lost a wonderful friend, and the community has lost a dedicated intellect and an inspiring personality.

— Judith Barrington



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Walter Lee Wheeler

A Jalter Lee Wheeler, who (along with his partner, J. Carey Junkin) founded Couples Inc., the National Organization for Family Diversity, which organized and sponsored The Wedding at the March On Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights on October 10, 1987, passed away of an apparent heart attack on Monday, May 16, 1988. He was 36 years

Couples Inc. was founded by Wheeler and Junkin to fight for the rights of gay and lesbian couples. It organized The Wedding as a political demonstration to show that couples of the same sex didn't have the same rights or recognition as

heterosexual couples. The Wedding drew more than 2,000 participating couples, and thousands of others who came to watch and support the demonstration.

Besides his partner, Carey, Walter is survived by his mother, Margaret C. Wheeler (Meyer) who lives in Maryland; his brothers and sistersin-law, Ralph and Deborah and David and Sharon; nephews Jeffrey, Joshua and Matthew, and niece Dinah.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Couples Inc., PO Box 13323, Los Angeles, CA 90013 would be appreciated.

For more information, contact Couples Inc. at (213) 550-7549, or the Rev. Troy Perry, c/o U.F.M.C.C., (213) 464-5100.

Terry Lee Marvin

memorial service was held for Terry Lee Marvin on June 8 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland.

Mr. Marvin died of AIDS-related causes on May 31. He was 29. His body was cremated. Born in Santa Cruz, California, he became an active advocate on behalf of persons diagnosed with HIV-related conditions, and had been featured in several local mass-media reports.

He is survived by his parents, Guy and Judi Marvin of Bend, Oregon, and sisters Peggy Brazeal and Shirl Dixon, also of Bend.

The family suggests that remembrances be contributions to The Brinker Trust/Cascade AIDS Project, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, or Juniper House, PO Box 15158, Portland, OR 97214.

Just Out publishes obituaries as a community service. In many cases, we depend on relatives and/or friends of the deceased to notify us of the death and provide us with information. Mail to Obituaries Editor, Just Out, PO Box 15117, Portland, OR 97215.

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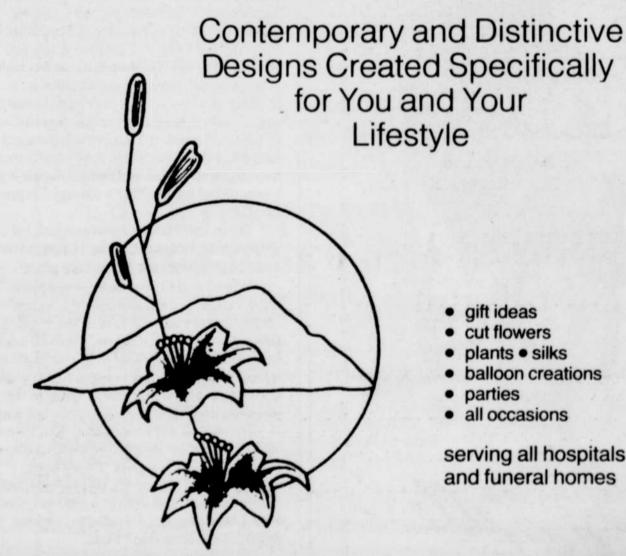
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