

local news

Back on the waterfront

This year's lesbian and gay pride theme optimizes our fight with the Oregon Citizens Alliance



PHOTO BY JAY BROWN

by Renée LaChance

The big event of the year, the annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Rally, will be held Saturday, June 20. This year's theme, "A Simple Matter of Justice," is taken from a speech by Harvey Milk and optimizes the fight we face with the Oregon Citizens Alliance. There are some changes this year from past years' events. The march has been upgraded to a parade due to the large turnout last year. Since there is construction in the North Park blocks, the parade will start at Northwest Glisan and Broadway at noon on Saturday, June 20. People should begin to gather and get organized at 10am. Groups with more than 10 people pay a \$10 fee to be in the parade. This is because the permit fee to occupy the streets jumped from \$40 to \$500 this year, and the funds need to come from somewhere.

The grand marshalls for this year's parade are Kathleen Saadat and Darcelle XV. Portland Police Chief Tom Potter will be marching with a contingent of police officers, Lady Elaine Peacock will be resplendant in a float as usual, there will be two horse-drawn carriages, and the Rose City Freedom Band will be tooting their horns.

The parade will wind south on Broadway to Southwest Salmon, then east on Salmon to Front, then north on Front to the rally site, which is at Tom McCall Waterfront Park at the Southwest Front and Oak "silver" stage. The route is 1.5 miles, so be prepared.

The rally begins at 1 pm and will continue until 5:45 pm. Stage entertainment will feature Lady Elaine Peacock, Denny's Reputation, Maria

Webster, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, the Portland Lesbian Choir, and the Rose City Gay Freedom Band. Gail Shibley and Jerry Keene, who are the only openly gay candidates running for office in Oregon, and activist Suzanne Pharr will be speaking.

At the rally site there will be over 80 booths full of information, art, clothing, crafts, food, jewelry, t-shirts and more. For the second year, there will be a health fair offering health care options to our community.

The budget for this year's parade and rally increased from \$15,000 last year to \$25,000 this year. The parade permit increase and an increase for the park permit, from \$500 last year to \$1,000 this year, are part of the reason. Also the city will be charging \$10 for every car that pulls up on to the grass at the rally site to unload materials for booths. Lesbian and Gay Pride, Inc., did not get any grants this year for the event and is relying solely on benefits, ad sales in the program, T-shirt sales, donations, booth fees, contingent fees, and other miscellaneous monies.

The parade and rally is the safest place and time to come out. It is important to be there in large numbers to show Portland and Oregon exactly how many of us exist and who we are. All gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals, transvestites, sexually unlabelled or unsure and anyone else who is in support of civil rights and justice—be there! Encourage your friends, family and co-workers to attend and show their support. This is our day to show the Oregon Citizens Alliance that we outnumber them and their kind.

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As an activist in Portland's lesbian and gay community for 20 years, I am fighting mad. The OCA's latest attempt to legally make us second class citizens by amending the Oregon Constitution is an outrage.

Here's what I've decided to do: for every client who wears an anti-OCA button, volunteers or in some way helps out, I will donate 5% of my net proceeds to *The Campaign For A Hate Free Oregon*—the group running the statewide campaign against the OCA's initiative.

I am proud to provide ethical, professional and caring real estate services. I am also proud to be a member of Oregon's lesbian and gay community.

Whether you are in the market to buy or sell, join with me to fight those who would deny us that pride.



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