

Tournament stirs up a lot of rackets

Team Portland Tennis Association will hold its annual tennis tournament, the Rose City Open, at several locations in Portland during Labor Day weekend.



Darryl Hubbard-Silver of San Francisco and Deanne Larsell of Portland accepting their trophies after winning the mixed open doubles event at Rose City Open VI

Proceeds from the event will be donated to Our House of Portland, an AIDS hospice, and to an AIDS education project for Portland Public Schools.

An estimated 250 athletes from around the country and Canada are expected to compete.

Team Portland Tennis Association is an affiliate of the international Gay and Lesbian Alliance, a confederation of teams throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.

On Aug. 29, the team will host a "draw party" to welcome the athletes to Portland and the tournament. Matches begin Aug. 30 and run through Sept. 1.

The tournament includes five divisions, accommodating the skill levels of all interested players, who may enter singles, doubles and/or mixed doubles events.

Team Portland and Rose City Open VII are open to all interested tennis players.

Participants must preregister and pay a fee, but there is no charge for those who simply wish to watch. Early rounds will be played at Portland State University, the Portland Tennis Center, Gabriel Park and the Oregon Episcopal School. By Sunday afternoon, all play will take place at the Portland Tennis Center, 324 NE 12th Ave.

New bisexual group sets meeting schedule

BiNet Portland, a consensus-based bisexual group, will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 7 pm at Laughing Horse Books, 3652 SE Division St. The group will hold meetings at the bookstore on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

A major focus of the group will be the return of the Pacific Northwest Bi Conference. For more information, call 232-9275 or visit the BiNet Portland Web site (www.europa.com/~apwills/binetpdx).

Deas named to Dignity/USA post

Portlander Jerry Deas has been named secretary of Dignity/USA, the nation's largest and oldest organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Catholics.

Deas was appointed July 9, during Dignity/USA's national convention in Boston.

The group also announced its adoption of national policy guidelines for blessing and recognizing committed relationships between same-sex couples.

The guidelines include spiritual and social support for couples preparing to formalize their relationships, sample Holy Union services, and the establishment of a national registry through which ceremonies performed in local Dignity chapters can be recorded. The action makes Dignity the first Catholic organization to institute a program for the recognition of same-sex relationships.

Dine out for Our House

Our House of Portland, a residential care facility for men and women living their last days with AIDS, announces the kick-off of its fifth annual signature fundraising event, Dinner at My House for Our House.

The fund-raiser consists of themed dinners held in private homes for at least eight guests who pay a minimum of \$60 each. Sponsors either cook the meals themselves or have dinners catered at their own expense, and all proceeds go to Our House.

When Dinner at My House for Our House was launched five years ago, it comprised seven dinner parties. This year's lineup of 31 events includes private events and dinners that are open to the public. The theme of the 1997 series is "Five Festive Years of Fabulous Feasts."

The events are spread out, beginning in early September and running through December. They include a celebration of the writer Marcel Proust, a boat tour of Lake Oswego and displays of antique and art collections. The menu choices are diverse, including Italian, French, Western barbecue, Southern cooking, sushi, Moroccan, grill cookery, Irish, Japanese and Indian. Many dinner hosts will serve popular Oregon wines.

The full program—including descriptions, dinner offerings and dates—is available by calling the Our House events line at 736-9276; dial the same number for reservations.

Our House is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation that provides a safe, supportive and structured living environment for individuals in the final stages of HIV disease. It has 10 private rooms and provides 24-hour nursing care, home-cooked meals, spiritual care, body work, social work and transportation.

MRG kicks off fall grant cycle

The McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, Oregon's multi-issue social change foundation, is launching its fall grant-making cycle.

MRG funds organizations that it believes address the root causes of social injustice and environmental degradation through community organizing and education.

To be considered for funding, groups must be located in Oregon, involved in organizing for progressive social change, concerned with demonstrating a commitment to diversity, and have limited access to other funding sources.

Groups interested in applying are encouraged to contact MRG's Eugene office to discuss project suitability and to request an application, which must be completed and postmarked by Oct. 6.

For more information, call MRG's Eugene office at (541) 485-2790 or 1-800-489-6743.

Compiled by Inga Sorensen

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